

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## INTRODUCTION OF OSHA REFORM BILLS

### HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 1999

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing five bills, each targeted specifically to a needed reform of the Occupational Safety and Health Act.

Over the past several years, we have made progress in redirecting and refocusing OSHA, from an agency that was too often focused on enforcement "for enforcement's sake" to one that has begun to recognize the importance and effectiveness of cooperative efforts and consultation programs, and of encouraging the voluntary efforts of employers and employees.

When we began this effort, the Clinton administration claimed that any change in OSHA's focus on enforcement would lead directly to increased injuries and deaths. In fact, just the opposite has occurred. The Department of Labor has reported in recent months that both workplace fatalities and workplace injury rates have again declined and are at the lowest levels since those records have been maintained. Those record low levels have been achieved even though we are the midst of a tight job market, a time in which, historically, injury rates increased.

My goal is to continue to push for changes that will further reduce injuries and fatalities by encouraging voluntary action and cooperative approaches. Where regulation and enforcement is imposed, it should be fair and the benefits should justify the costs. Unfortunately, there are still far too many instances in which OSHA's enforcement and regulation is neither.

The five bills that I am introducing cover the following areas. I welcome my colleagues' support for these bills.

**Audit Protection:** Safety and health audits are an important aspect of a company's efforts to ensure that their workplaces are safe. Most employers, particularly in hazardous industries, do some type of safety and health audit. Those with good lawyers then either destroy the records or disclose it only to their lawyers, neither of which is the most effective way to improve safety and health. The reason companies do so is that OSHA inspectors routinely use the audit to penalize the employer. OSHA's enforcement policy is counter-productive to employee health and safety. I believe we should encourage employers to conduct audits, not discourage them. My bill provides limited protection for audits, and at the same time, encourages employers to conduct audits and to fix the hazards found during those audits.

**Whistleblower Protection:** The OSH Act provides important legal protection for employees who raise concerns about safety or health hazards. However, the current process for handling those complaints is neither effective nor fair. Complainants sometimes wait years for the Department of Labor to decide whether

to seek relief in court. I am proposing that the OSH Act be amended to provide an administrative private right of action so that the complainant is assured opportunity for an administrative hearing and timely decision. Encouraging safety and health audits and assuring timely adjudication of whistleblower complaints by employees are important steps that Congress must take to support and encourage voluntary safety and health efforts by employers and employees.

**Safety Meetings:** As a result of a December 1998 decision by the National Labor Relations Board, employee safety committee are illegal, except: (1) where a union is involved and the safety committee is negotiated with the union, or (2) the safety committee has no real responsibility for safety and health. For years we have argued over what employee involvement the law allows or does not allow. At least now, in the area of safety, it is clear that, for most workplaces, current law permits very little employee involvement. It is time to fix the law. My bill addresses only safety committees; it does not open up the National Labor Relations Act. It would allow employees to participate, through safety committees, in evaluating safety conditions and safety rules and policies—responsibilities that are now prohibited in the majority of workplaces.

**Rulemaking Reform:** In my view, a relatively simple reform would make OSHA standards-setting more fair and lead to more practical regulation. When OSHA proposes a standard, it should clearly indicate which industries will be regulated, and its risk assessments and cost analysis regarding the standard should relate specifically to those industries. Neither of these steps is new. OSHA has identified specific industries in some rulemakings, and the courts have frequently required OSHA to reconsider standards because it failed to conduct "industry specific" analyses. Putting these changes in statute will ensure that both are consistently part of the rulemaking procedure, thereby providing greater fairness in future OSHA rulemakings.

**SBREFA Implementation:** The 1996 Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Act (SBREFA) required all federal regulatory agencies to establish policies to provide for reduction and waiver of penalties for non-serious violations by small employers. OSHA has maintained that its existing penalty policy was an adequate response. However, the existing policy allows a maximum 35 percent reduction for most small businesses, and conditions even that reduction on meeting additional, non-regulatory requirements. My legislation will direct OSHA to adopt a specific waiver of penalties policy for non-serious violations, if those violations are corrected within a time-frame set by OSHA.

## NANCY JALONEN, 1999 BRAVO! RECIPIENT

### HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Nancy Jalonen of San Mateo, CA, the recipient of the 1999 Bravo! Award. The Bravo! Award is given each year by the Hillbarn Theatre League in honor of substantial contributions to the cultural life of the Peninsula area. Ms. Jalonen will receive this honor on tomorrow evening at a ceremony held in her honor at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Foster City.

Nancy Jalonen has been absolutely vital to the arts community on the Peninsula for many years now. During her tenure as executive director from 1978 to 1984, she revolutionized the San Mateo Arts Council. She developed the Music in the Schools program, attracting professional musicians to local schools to give lectures and demonstrations, and she created the SWAP program, where artists "swap" teaching for studio space. When Ms. Jalonen left the Arts Council in 1984, it had been judged one of the top three councils in California for 2 years running.

Since then, Ms. Jalonen has led the committee to renovate the San Mateo High School Auditorium and transform it into the San Mateo Performing Arts Center. She is on the Board of Directors of Ragazzi and Theatre-Works and is also a member of the committee to found City Arts of San Mateo, an organization geared to promote visual, literary, and performing arts in San Mateo.

In 1996, Ms. Jalonen produced and hosted 21 television programs on the oral history of San Mateo County. This was not her first foray into the world of television. For 20 years at KCSM-TV, she produced and hosted over 150 television programs featuring performing and visual arts organizations throughout San Mateo County. She currently presents a monthly radio program on local theater for the Lighthouse for the Blind.

Mr. Speaker, Nancy Johnson's work has been a remarkable and an important contribution to the cultural life of the Peninsula, and her efforts have enriched the lives of all of us in the Bay Area. I would like to ask my colleagues to join me and the Hillbarn Theatre League in lauding Ms. Nancy Lee Jalonen for her well-deserved honor.

## HONORING MARY BIANCHINI

### HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call to the attention of our colleagues one of the most remarkable residents of my Congressional District and, in fact, of our nation.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Mary Bianchini is turning 92 years young this month, and her friends, family, and numerous admirers are coming together not only to honor her but also to initiate a scholarship fund in her name. Mary has devoted so many years of service to others—as a nurse, as a media personality, and as a linchpin in numerous charitable concerns—that it is only appropriate that we return some of our love to her which she has showered upon us all these many years.

A cover story in the January-February 1987 issue of "Geriatric Nursing" recounted how Mary emigrated to the United States from Italy with her family at a young age. In 1929, she married the man her parents had chosen for her but before long that union found a firm foundation in love. In fact, Mary remained married to the same man until his untimely death in the late 1950s, nearly thirty years after their nuptials.

Mary had planned to become a sterling housewife and mother, but as happened with all too many Americans at that time, the Great Depression threw a monkey wrench into her plans. Forced to find employment in a shoe factory, Mary had to seek new employment when that establishment burned down and she applied to become a telephone operator at the Rockland State Hospital. Mary was told there were no vacancies, but would be hired if she would help out in patient care. From that experience on, Mary was hooked on helping others.

Mary demonstrated a natural skill at caring for the ill. She became a licensed practical nurse in 1938, and soon earned a reputation statewide for her compassion and skill, as well as her common sense.

Mary served as an officer in the New York State Practical Nurses Association from 1948 until 1962. In these positions, her reputation as a feisty defender of the underdog was assured.

In the 1960's, Mary began a completely new career as host of her own radio, and cable television, programs. Soon, the movers and shakers in all aspects of society were seeking to be interviewed by this remarkable woman, not quite five feet high. Her insight broadcast interviews continued until well in the 1980s.

Mary Bianchini was the American Heart Association "Queen of Hearts" in 1985, was cited by Governor Mario Cuomo for service to our state, and was a strong supporter of my Congressional Citizens Advisory Committee on Drugs.

Perhaps Mary's greatest pride in her own family. Her son Dr. Valentino Bianchini is a respected member of the medical profession who has raised his own family following Mary's guidelines to life. She is also proud of her large, loving family.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join with us in saluting this wonderful woman on the occasion of her 92nd birthday, with wishes for many many more, as well as our profoundest hopes that we will be able to join her in celebrating many birthdays to come.

#### TRIBUTE TO MERVIN G. MORRIS

### HON. ANNA G. ESCHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 1999

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mervin G. Morris, an extraordinary man

and my constituent of Atherton, California, who will be presented the Leading Citizens Award by the Boys & Girls Club of the Peninsula on Wednesday, April 21, 1999.

As a third generation Californian, Mervin Morris was raised in the farming town of Delano, California. He joined the family business after serving four years in the United States Army during World War II. In 1949, he founded Mervyns Department Store in San Lorenzo, California. From that original store in San Lorenzo, he built a department store chain that currently employs over 70,000 people worldwide.

Mervin Morris has provided over a decade of service to the Boys & Girls Club. His vision resulted in the development of a new clubhouse to serve the youth in East Palo Alto which is slated to open next spring. The clubhouse in Redwood City is named in his honor, and he has been instrumental in garnering volunteer and donor support for a fully renovated facility in the Belle Haven neighborhood in Menlo Park.

Mervin Morris' volunteer activities do not stop at the Boys & Girls Club. He currently serves as a Trustee of the Palo Alto Medical Foundation and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Eisenhower Medical Center. His involvement in countless other community organizations include the California Academy of Sciences, the Jewish Community Federation, Jewish Home for the Aged, the Palm Springs Desert Museum, the Peninsula Oral School for the Deaf, Scott Street Senior Housing, and the Stanford Athletic Department. Mr. Morris also continues his service to our military as a civilian advisor to the Commanding General of the Army and Air Force Exchange Services.

Mervin Morris and his wife of almost fifty years, Roslyn, who is also being honored by the Boys & Girls Club, have four loving children and twelve beautiful grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Mervin Morris is a man of outstanding character and I salute him for his remarkable contributions to our country and our community. We consider him a great blessing amongst us and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring him as he receives the honor of being named a Leading Citizen by the Boys & Girls Club of the Peninsula. No one deserves this more.

#### CONFERENCE REPORT ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 68, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000

SPEECH OF

### HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H. Con. Res. 68 because it is a magician's trick. It tricks the American people into believing that the Republican budget plan is good for retirees; good for baby boomers and the solvency of Social Security; and good for our working families. Mr. Speaker, their plan is smoke-and-mirrors. Their plan is full of short-term, feel-good, pretax day "fuzzy-wuzzies." However, I submit that we need to be making investments toward America's fu-

ture, not siphoning off the surplus. I am opposed to such trickery.

Mr. Speaker, their plan uses irresponsible tax cuts for the next 10 years as opposed to investing in our economic future. Their plan ignores the challenges that working families and/or the struggling poor face in consequential areas such as job training, education, health care, and affordable housing.

Mr. Speaker, this conference report sets nondefense discretionary spending for FY 2000 at \$43.7 billion less than provided for in 1999. Where do our priorities lie? This budget sounds like a dream, a nightmare for those who are most vulnerable—\$2.5 billion less in budget authority for community and regional development; \$800 million less for health programs; \$4.1 billion less in low-income programs; and finally \$13.7 billion more in budget authority for defense spending in FY 2000.

This budget does not reflect the needs of my district where the median income is \$25,250. This budget cuts the heart out of senior citizens with the \$9 billion Medicare cuts and puts health care at risk for millions with the \$1.2 billion cut in Medicaid.

Mr. Speaker, only as this process moves into appropriation reality will the American people understand the basic unfairness, the cold-heartedness which lie at the base of these numbers presented here today.

I end with a quote by the great Franklin Delano Roosevelt to remind my colleagues of achieving a great society in a true democracy.

True individual freedom cannot exist without economic security and independence. People who are hungry and out of a job are the stuff of which dictatorships are made.

#### TRIBUTE TO JIM SCHUETTE

### HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 1999

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to briefly provide some comments about a great friend of the people of northeastern Wisconsin, and a personal friend of mine—Jim Schuette.

This month marks the end of Jim's term as Outagamie County Executive, a position he has held for the last three years.

But Jim's history of serving the people goes back a full 45 years—and we're truly fortunate he decided to dedicate his life to public service.

As a young man, Jim joined the U.S. Marine Corps and later went on to serve for 19 years with the U.S. Army Reserves.

For most of his working life, Jim delivered letters for the U.S. postal service—and was always a smiling face folks could count on.

For the 12 years before he became county executive, he served on the Outagamie County Board, where he earned a reputation for approaching problems with his trademark common sense.

I couldn't dream of letting this occasion go by without telling Jim how much his time and hard work have meant to me and to the people of northeastern Wisconsin.

So, on behalf of myself and the countless other people whose lives have been made brighter by Jim's efforts, I want to say "thanks!"

HONORING THE SHEPELS AND  
MARIA'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT**HON. RON KLINK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two outstanding citizens from Beaver, Pennsylvania. To the delight of the community, George and Maria DiLeonardo-Shepel reopened a fine family restaurant known as Maria's on April 1, 1999. The Shepels' hard work and commitment to this neighborhood institution are testimony to the strong work ethic of western Pennsylvania.

I would like to recognize the Shepels for their contributions to their community. Without these types of individuals, many of our neighborhoods would lose their local traditions. Their dedication and hard work are deserving of commendation.

The Shepels bought Maria's in 1988 and successfully modeled the restaurant after an authentic Italian eatery. For six years, this establishment was a popular neighborhood meeting place. During my first campaign for the U.S. Congress, the Shepels were among my first supporters, and invited me to dine in their restaurant. I will never forget their friendship or their kind words of support.

The couple has spent the last few years renovating the restaurant and restoring it to its original condition. By providing quality food and friendly service, the Shepels have ensured that Maria's will be a permanent fixture in this community for years to come. My fellow colleagues, it is with great pleasure that I rise and applaud George and Maria DiLeonardo-Shepel. I hope they continue to enjoy tremendous success and wish them the best of luck in the future.

CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF  
ACCOMPLISHMENT**HON. JAMES A. BARCIA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, people who give back to their community are a precious resource. For my home town of Bay City, one wonderful example of how valuable this precious resource can be is Knights of Columbus, Council #414, which this week celebrates its most special 100th anniversary.

Forty-nine men from Bay City and Saginaw met on April 16, 1899, to organize Valley Council 414, with its first home at the Old Cottage Hall on the corner of Sixth and Madison. While some members withdrew from 414 in order to form other new councils in Saginaw and the surrounding area, by December 29, 1915, the Bay City Council 414, renamed as such in 1902, had grown to over 1,500 members. A proud but sad point of history was made when in 1917, Francis McCauley became the first Bay County and Council 414 member casualty in France during World War I.

Over the years, Council 414 has grown in members and has moved through several facilities that have served its diverse needs. At the same time, it has held true to the main

purposes of the Knights of Columbus, founded by Rev. Michael McGivney in 1882—charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. It has held its loyalty to the Catholic Church and the Pope. The Knights of Columbus have promoted solid values through its promotion of family life, charitable disbursements to needy people and disaster victims, its "Crusade for Life" in defense of the unborn, insurance for its members, an educational trust for children of members who are killed or totally disabled due to military service or in performance of their duties as full-time law enforcement officers or firemen, and student loans to Knights, their families, and members of the clergy.

Council 414 has worked particularly hard to provide charitable assistance to the crippled children and adults of Bay City, as well as to the mentally challenged. Its "Clown Unit" provided more than 2,200 hours of enjoyment to children at schools, hospitals, special events, and the Special Olympics last year. The Knights have been wonderful friends through their visits to senior citizens. They also provided, without charge, assistance with their Pall Bearers Group at over 400 funerals since the group's inception more than a decade ago.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when we ask whether or not our people have a sense of values, and whether or not they are prepared to recognize that the government alone cannot provide all of the assistance that people may require, we need look no further than the Knights of Columbus, and inspirational units like Council 414 of Bay City. I urge you and all of our colleagues to join me in congratulating Grand Knight James F. Morrisette and the more than 640 members of Council 414 on this very special 100th anniversary, and in wishing them many more successful and fulfilling years to come.

## HONORING RONALD ANSIN

**HON. JOHN W. OLVER**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay honor to the fine work and outstanding public service of a true philanthropist, Mr. Ronald Ansin. On this Saturday, Ron will receive the 1999 National Alexis de Tocqueville Society Award for Community Service, United Way of America's highest honor given for volunteer service.

A native of central Massachusetts, Ron graduated from Harvard College cum laude in 1955 and continued his education at Yale Law School graduating in 1958. Both a civic and business leader in Massachusetts, Ron heads two successful companies, the Anwelt Corporation in Fitchburg, Massachusetts and L.B. Evans's Son Co., Inc., in Leominster, Massachusetts.

Over the past 30 years, Ron has committed himself to civic and community service on many local, state and national issues.

Locally, Ron has been a philanthropic force in North Central Massachusetts, supporting the Thayer Symphony Orchestra, HealthAlliance, Inc., the Fitchburg Art Museum, and local educational institutions including the Applewild School, Fitchburg State College and Mount Wachusett Community College. Ron has been the recipient of the Disting-

guished Citizen Award from the Boy Scouts of America and has received a Honorary Doctor of Humanities Degree from Fitchburg State College.

Within Massachusetts, Ron held the position of the Commissioner of Commerce and Development in the mid-1980's. He also served on a number of state-wide boards and councils including the Governor's Commission on Co-generation, the Mental Health & Retardation Area Board, and the State Job Training Coordinating Council. Ron currently serves on the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts.

Nationally, Ron is the treasurer of the Center of National Policy in Washington, DC, a non-partisan and non-profit public policy think tank. In 1977, Ron served as an industry advisor (footwear) to the Office of the President.

Mr. Speaker, few people in public life ever make the type of contributions made by Ronald Ansin. I can sincerely commend Ron as a true humanitarian, a role-model for our youth, and a man worthy of honor and respect. It is only appropriate that the House join me in paying tribute to Mr. Ansin today.

THE FAMILY FARM PROTECTION  
ACT**HON. MARK GREEN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to introduce my first bill before this house.

It's a bill designed to bring some desperately-needed relief to farm families across America and in my home of northeastern Wisconsin.

It's a simple proposal, really—and rather than increase government's role in agriculture, it actually eliminates one of the burdens government places upon our family farmers.

This bill—the Family Farm Protection Act—will exempt farmers from the Federal capital gains tax when they sell their farm to a family member.

This bill removes one of the multitude of burdens our farmers face, and will help to keep family farms within the family.

Our farmers are suffering through the toughest farm crisis in 15 years—maybe longer.

We used to call farming "agriculture," today, it's more often called "agribusiness."

I think there's a reason for that.

America used to be an "argi-culture"—farming was more than a business.

It was America's way of life—we were a culture built around an agrarian center.

Washington and Jefferson were both farmers.

But today, we can see our "agri-culture" slipping into history.

As more family farms go under, the farming way of life—America's "agri-culture" goes with them.

We cannot let that happen.

While the U.S. economy is booming, farmers face a real crisis—no matter how hard they work.

In the past, we in the Congress have had a tendency to get government more involved in the midst of a farm crisis.

But this bill—the Family Farm Protection Act—recognizes that government is often a

part of the problem, rather than a part of the solution.

We have 22 original co-sponsors of this legislation, each of whom I'd like to thank for their help and support in this growing effort to offer real relief to our farm families.

This proposal helps protect our family farmers today and is an important first step in a broader movement to maintain America's tradition of "agri-culture"—a way of life and a set of values that built the America we live in today.

I ask my colleagues to join me in this movement and to support the Family Farm Protection Act.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in the district and as a result missed rollcall votes 78–85. If I had been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall 78; "aye" on rollcall 79; "aye" on rollcall 80; "aye" on rollcall 81; "aye" on rollcall 82; "aye" on rollcall 83; "nay" on rollcall 84; and "nay" on rollcall 85.

#### THE DAVID CHETCUTI FIREARMS MODIFICATION ACT—H.R. 1428

### HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues about legislation that I am introducing in the House to honor the memory of a brave police officer who was killed in my congressional district less than a year ago, Officer David Chetcuti. Officer Chetcuti was a devoted husband and a loving father to his three sons. He was also a decorated 11-year veteran of the Millbrae police department. On April 25 of last year, after responding to a routine call from an officer in a neighboring jurisdiction, Officer Chetcuti was shot and killed by Marvin Sullivan, a convicted felon.

Mr. Speaker, the weapon which Sullivan used to kill David Chetcuti was an assault rifle, a class of firearm that many of us thought we had succeeded in removing from our Nation's streets. Marvin Sullivan, who was not legally able to purchase the kind of firearm he used to kill Officer Chetcuti, assembled his weapon from a series of gun components which he was able to purchase without any of the restrictions which are imposed by law on the purchase of assault weapons.

Through mail order catalogues, over the Internet, and at gun shops—without any of the restrictions on the purchase of fully assembled firearms—Sullivan was able to purchase the components that he used to make his illegal weapon. That gun was created for the sole purpose of killing another human being. The weapon he built defied and circumvented all the firearm safeguards for which we have fought long and hard. The components were easy to procure, the assembly was simple,

and the final product was devastatingly deadly.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation I introduced today—H.R. 1428, The David Chetcuti Firearm Modification Act—would close the existing loophole which permits felons like Marvin Sullivan to have access to components which they can use to assemble these weapons. This is a simple proposal and does not require more enforcement effort than what currently exists. Quite simply, this legislation would extend the provisions of existing gun control legislation to those components which criminals, like Mr. Sullivan, can and do use to make assault weapons.

The adoption of this legislation would prohibit the sale to convicted felons of large capacity ammunition clips or other firearm components which make it possible for them to maim and kill. This legislation would also require that the purchase of these components be carried out in person. Today there are literally hundreds of mail order operations and Internet sites which offer items such as military issue ammo clips, silencer-fitting threaded barrels, and pistol grips capable of turning a hunting rifle into an automatic killing machine.

Mr. Speaker, the availability of these components is a public safety threat, already tragically felt by the Chetcuti family and by the law enforcement community in my congressional district. For the safety of our outgunned law enforcement officers and for the well-being of our communities, I urge my colleagues in the Congress to join me in working for the passage of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, much has been said to honor the dedicated men and women who daily put their safety and their lives on the line to provide the citizens of our country with the security, safety, and peace essential for the maintenance of our civil society. These men and women of our law enforcement community are the "thin blue line" which stands between the decent and law-abiding citizens of this nation and the abyss of lawlessness, chaos, and anarchy. Our law enforcement professionals deserve the support and protection which this legislation will provide.

#### 100th ANNIVERSARY OF UNIONTOWN HOSE FIRE CO. NO. 2 OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NY

### HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, on April 18, 1999, the Uniontown Hose Fire Company No. 2 in Hastings-on-Hudson will celebrate its 100th anniversary.

Originally incorporated on August 19, 1899, by 30 charter members, the company has faithfully served the Hastings community by protecting the lives and property of their neighbors for nearly a full century.

Fire departments are one of our most vital organizations protecting the safety of a community and its citizens. Each year, throughout our Nation, fire kills over 6,000 people, injures about 28,000 people, and destroys more than 7 billion dollars' worth of property. Without the services that institutions such as the Uniontown Hose Fire Co. provide, these numbers would be even higher and the threat of

fire to Americans could be even more severe. Besides fighting fires, our volunteer firemen are involved in fire prevention and safety as well as providing first aide and rescue support in the event of major disasters. The protection the men and women of Uniontown Hose have furnished to the community of Hastings-on-Hudson over their many years of service is worthy of commendation, for it is their devoted work that helps make our neighborhoods safer and more secure.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Uniontown Hose Fire Co. on its 100th anniversary and extending our best wishes to its officers and members for another 100 years of service.

#### TRIBUTE TO ROSLYN G. MORRIS

### HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Roslyn G. Morris, an extraordinary woman and my constituent of Atherton, CA, who will be presented the Leading Citizens Award by the Boys & Girls Club of the Peninsula on Wednesday, April 21, 1999.

Roslyn Morris has a distinguished volunteer resume. Described by friends as "quietly loving and giving", Roslyn Morris is often found behind the scenes working diligently on causes important to her. Initially on the Board of the Florence Crittendon Home, she was a founding member of the Peninsula Children's Charter Auxiliary. Her deep commitment to Peninsula Volunteers (PV) led her to serve as President of the Board of Directors in 1980. In 1995, the newly renovated PV Senior Center Little House was named in her honor.

Roslyn Morris is actively involved with the Museum of Modern Art in San Francisco. She recently assisted with the opening of the new Iris & Gerald Cantor Center for the Visual Arts at Stanford University.

Roslyn and her husband of almost 50 years, Mervin, also being honored by the Boys & Girls Club, have 4 loving children and 12 beautiful grandchildren.

Very importantly, Mr. Speaker, Roslyn Morris' example of excellence has inspired others to provide opportunities for achievement, especially for the young and particularly, for those who come from disadvantaged circumstances.

Mr. Speaker, Roslyn Morris is a woman of outstanding character and I salute her for her remarkable contributions to our country and our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring her as she is being named a Leading Citizen by the Boys & Girls Club of the Peninsula. No one deserves this more.

#### ALAMANCE COUNTY, N.C.'s SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

### HON. RICHARD BURR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. BURR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Alamance County, North Carolina for its upcoming 150th Anniversary. Alamance County's

charter was granted on April 24, 1849, but its rich history goes back much farther. The area was first an important crossroads on the well-known Indian Trading Path which connected villages in eastern Virginia, South Carolina, and eastern North Carolina. This path became an important avenue for trade and migration in the new colony, and it helped bring Alamance County's first European settlers—English and Irish Quakers, Scotch-Irish Presbyterians, and German Lutherans. Most of these settlers traveled many miles from Pennsylvania and northern Virginia to make Alamance County their home, and their legacy lives on today. The Cane Creek Meeting, established in 1751, is the oldest active Quaker meeting in North Carolina, and Hawfields Presbyterian Church, established in 1755, is the oldest Presbyterian Church in the county.

A desire for freedom has always been deeply ingrained in the people of Alamance County. As a result of their frustration with land tenure problems, inequitable taxation, and inadequate representation in the colonial General Assembly, many of the county's residents joined the Regulator Movement—established to protest corrupt and inefficient county courts. The hostilities between the Regulators and the colonial government escalated into general insurrection and climaxed when Royal Governor William Tryon quelled the uprising by mustering a 1,000-man militia and defeating the Regulators on May 16, 1771 in the Battle of Alamance. While the county's loyalties were split early in the American Revolution, Alamance County played a key role in America's independence. General John Butler, a Swepsonville resident and one of our country's most distinguished Revolutionary War soldiers, led patriot troops in the battle of Moore's Creek Bridge and was later elected Brigadier General of the Hillsborough District. Moreover, Pyle's Massacre, a major American victory, occurred in Alamance County four miles west of the town of Graham.

Before Alamance County's charter was granted in 1849, the area was part of Orange County. Residents of the section of Orange County west of the Eno River, however, felt removed from the county seat of Hillsborough, and in January, 1849, one of Orange County's Representatives in the General Assembly introduced legislation creating Alamance County. Separate legislation introduced at the same time established Graham (named after Governor William A. Graham) as the Alamance County Seat. On April 19, 1849, the residents of Orange County approved the creation of Alamance County by a narrow margin, and five days later, on April 24, 1849, Alamance County's Charter was granted—the event we will celebrate next Saturday.

Since its establishment, Alamance County has had a strong and growing economy. In 1856, the North Carolina Railroad was completed. Running from Goldsboro to Charlotte, the railroad spurred great economic growth in the county. Because of the efforts of Benjamin Trollinger and Edwin M. Holt (local mill owners and members of the railroad's board of directors), the North Carolina Railroad was run through the middle of Alamance County, and the railroad's repair and maintenance shops were located near Graham at Company Shops. In 1887, Company Shops' name was changed to Burlington which is now the county's largest municipality.

The presence of the railroad was also a blessing to the county's emerging textile industry. Within a short period, many new mills opened, including Alamance County's most successful textile operation—the Alamance Cotton Mill. Established by Edwin Michael Holt on the site of his father's grist mill on Alamance Creek, Alamance Cotton Mill contributed greatly to the prominence of the southern textile industry when it became the first mill south of the Potomac River to produce commercially dyed cotton plaids—known as Alamance plaids. The success of the mill enabled the Holt family's business to grow and include 22 mills in Alamance County alone. Some of these mill holdings would later be consolidated into the multinational corporation Burlington Industries. Today, the textile industry continues to be a major source of the county's economic growth and stability.

Mr. Speaker, after 150 years, Alamance County exemplifies the best attributes of a rural county. Its people have worked hard to develop its economy and community—all while preserving its heritage and culture. It is a friendly place where people still stroll the sidewalks in the evening and greet friends and strangers with a smile. I am proud to have Alamance County in my district, and I wish them success and happiness for the next 150 years.

#### THE DEATH TAX ELIMINATION ACT

#### HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will improve the prospects of every family-owned and operated farm, ranch, and business in America. These small family farms and businesses are the backbone of the Texas economy, and the estate tax, often called the death tax, threatens their continued existence. It is time to end this tax—and my bill does just that.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that farmers' and ranchers' estates are six times more likely to face estate taxes than others' estates. In my travels around the 19 counties of the First Congressional District, evidence of the accuracy of this estimation pours forth. At nearly every stop I make, I hear horror stories from family members who were forced to sell all or part of the family farm just to pay estate taxes.

The death tax represents one percent of the Federal tax revenues. However, the impact to the taxpayers is far from insignificant. Not only does this punitive tax cause financial problems for families who are forced to sell property that has been in the family for generations or businesses built over a lifetime, but also local economies feel the impact as jobs disappear and businesses close. Clearly, the social and economic costs of the estate tax far outweigh the revenue it provides for the federal government.

The time has come to end this ill conceived tax. The tax that was originally intended to break up huge family estates now inhibits the passage of 70 percent of family businesses

from one generation to the next. Two years ago, we took meaningful steps to reduce the burden of death taxes on family farms and small businesses in the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997. The next step is to completely eliminate it and free families from this burden forever.

#### AMERICAN SOCIETY OF TRANSPLANTATION

#### HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, as we approach National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week, April 18–24, I rise today to recognize the American Society of Transplantation, an organization comprised of 1,400 transplant physicians, surgeons, and scientists actively engaged in the research and practice of transplantation medicine and immunobiology and represents the majority of professionals in the field of transplantation in the United States. AST members play a critical role in the management of transplant patients from the onset of end-stage disease to post-transplantation are involved in basic research that translates from “bench to bedside,” improving the care of transplant patients.

The 1999 National Donor Recognition Ceremony, sponsored by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), will kick-off the week's activities that will be promoting organ and tissue donation and celebrating donors. AST's President, John F. Neylan, MD will be a speaker at this event along with U.S. Surgeon General, David Satcher, MD, PhD. Similar events will be taking place around the country next week. Organ procurement agencies, transplant centers and transplant-related organizations across the nation will sponsor activities with a donation theme ranging from health fairs to sporting events. Donor memorial services and transplant recipient reunions will take place to celebrate and recognize those individuals who have given the ultimate gift . . . “the Gift of Life.”

As a strong supporter of medical research, I commend the AST, headquartered in my district, for their dedication and commitment to research, education, advocacy and patient care in transplantation science and medicine. These dedicated physicians are integral members of the “transplant team” and in many cases, are the directors of their transplant program.

Through the work of AST, the transfer of information to the transplant clinics from basic science laboratories will lead to new scientific advances and improvements in patient care. Next month, AST will be holding their 18th Annual Scientific Meeting which will attract an international attendance to the city of Chicago and will feature the cutting edge science that is opening new frontiers in transplantation medicine and immunobiology. AST members assist in providing the “Gift of Life” and I commend them for their contributions to our society's health care.

THE CARING FOR AMERICA'S  
CHILDREN ACT

**HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Caring for America's Children Act, in an effort to effectively stimulate the demand for higher quality care for our Nation's children while simultaneously removing barriers and providing resources to improve the quality of child care in the United States.

Child care continues to be a worry for most families as stories continue to surface about the lack of quality child care. Moreover, research has clearly demonstrated that a high-quality child care program is one that makes the healthy development and education of children its first objective and strives to stimulate the learning process of all children through developmentally appropriate activities that foster social, emotional, and intellectual growth. In addition, families in today's society are increasingly required to have both parents enter the work force. Accordingly, the demand for quality child care is increasing as is the need for credentialed and accredited child care providers.

Accordingly, this act will stimulate the demand for higher quality child care for our Nation's children while simultaneously removing barriers and providing resources to improve the quality of child care in the United States.

Many of my colleagues may have read about the tragic circumstances surrounding the Fiedelhotz family in Florida. The Fiedelhotz' son Jeremy died after only 2 hours at a day care facility. Though this tragedy should have never happened, it is an unfortunate example of what can and may continue to happen unless we encourage and inform all parents about the need for accredited and credentialed child care providers and facilities.

Caring for America's Children Act through the Tax Code will encourage the demand for accredited or credentialed child care. This will be accomplished in the following manner: First, by increasing the amount which an employee can contribute to a dependent care assistance plan if a child is in accredited or credentialed child care; second, changing the dependent care tax credit to allow parents to receive a higher and more equitable dependent day care credit; third providing tax benefits for employees which provide quality child care; fourth, extending eligibility for businesses to take a qualified charitable deduction for the donation of educational equipment and materials to public schools, accredited or credentialed nonprofit child care providers; fifth, establishing a \$260 million competitive grant program to assist States in improving the quality of child care; sixth, expanding public information and technical assistance services to identify and disseminate to the public what is important for child development in child care; seventh, providing \$50 million to create and operate a technology-based training infrastructure to enable child care providers nationwide to receive the training, education, and support they need to improve the quality of child care; eighth, creating a child care training revolving fund to enable child care providers and child care support entities to purchase computers, satellite dishes, and

other technological equipment which enable them to participate in the child care training provided on the national infrastructure; and ninth, requiring that all Federal child care centers will have to meet all State and local licensing and other regulatory requirements related to the provision of child care, within 6 months of the passage of this legislation.

I want to urge all of my colleagues to review this bill and to cosponsor this important bill. Our children are our future and we must insist that they receive the best care possible, especially during their early development years.

Accordingly, I urge your support.

CONGRATULATING PETER AND  
FRANCES KENDALL

**HON. MARGE ROUKEMA**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate J. Peter Kendall, mayor of Oakland, New Jersey, and his wife, "Fran," on being chosen as the recipients of the 1999 West Bergen Mental Healthcare's Distinguished Service Award. Mayor and Mrs. Kendall have given many years of exemplary public service to their community, both in the field of mental health and otherwise. This honor is certainly well deserved, and today I wish to add the recognition of the United States House of Representatives to that which they have received from West Bergen Mental Healthcare.

Over the years, the Kendalls have been strong advocates of affordable mental health services for families in their community. Together, they have been actively involved with West Bergen Mental Healthcare in numerous ways, contributing generously of their time and talents.

Mrs. Kendall has adopted "doing for others" as a personal philosophy. She divides her time between community service, her family and neighbors, a great talent for art and a never-ending interest in politics, people and participation. In 1994, her commitment to Oakland was recognized when she was chosen as the Oakland Women's Club as Woman of the Year. Fran has truly been a close, supportive friend to the community and all who know her.

An award-winning artist, Mrs. Kendall has been honored at numerous art shows, including the CAA Interstate Show, the CAA National Juried Art Show, the Urban Farms Art Show, the Mid-Atlantic Juried Art Show and many others. Her work "displays a highly individualized sense of color" and has been featured in galleries throughout the area as well as in numerous corporate shows and private homes in the United States and abroad. Mrs. Kendall is actively involved in community activities including Oakland's 300th anniversary, "First Night Oakland," and the Bergen County Women's Republican Club among others.

When the New Jersey Conference of Mayors chose Mayor Kendall as the 1998 Mayor of the Year, they acknowledged a treasure long recognized by the people of Oakland. Currently serving his second four-year term as mayor and in his 14th year of elected office in Oakland, Mayor Kendall is a dedicated public servant. Whether it is in the political, social, economic or family arena, no task is too great or too small.

Mayor Kendall has brought his successful business experience to the benefits of Oakland, stabilizing taxes, reducing municipal staff, directing improvement projects, preserving open spaces and spearheading the building of the Oakland Senior Citizens Center. He is the chairman of the 300 anniversary celebration, initiated the "First Night Oakland" event and many others. Whether he is playing in a softball game to raise money for a sick child, working with students at Valley Middle School or playing Santa Claus, he is always there to help. In every way, Mayor Kendall has brought the people of Oakland together as a community and family.

Mayor Kendall and I have worked together on many local projects over the years and he has always provided me with sound advice and counsel, and authoritative information.

The Kendalls have lived in Oakland 22 years and have three sons—John, Mark and Sean. John and his wife, Carla, have two sons, Christopher and Peter, while Mark and his wife, Rose, have three children, Bianca, Dalton and Madisyn.

Peter and Fran Kendall are hard-working, dedicated public servants. Their efforts to improve the quality of life in their community are exemplary. Their dedication and generosity are known throughout Northern New Jersey. They are true friends to all the people all the time.

RECOGNITION OF CATHEDRAL  
HIGH SCHOOL BOYS VARSITY  
FOOTBALL AND GIRLS VARSITY  
SOCCER

**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of the Boys Varsity Football team and the Girls Varsity Soccer team of Cathedral High School in Springfield, Massachusetts. Their two teams demonstrated superb athletic excellence and great character in the fall season of 1998. Their exploits bring pride and joy to the City of Springfield and the many alumni of Cathedral High School. Their accomplishments deserve our recognition.

The Cathedral High School Football team has a long and proud tradition. Undeclared seasons can be traced back to the 1930's. The Cathedral Football legacy includes the first Notre Dame player to win the Heisman Trophy, Angelo Bertelli. Mr. Bertelli was a member of Cathedral's 1939 undefeated squad. Another legendary graduate is Nick Buoniconti, a co-captain at Notre Dame and member of the back-to-back Super Bowl Champion Miami Dolphins of 1973-74. Mr. Buoniconti was a member of the 1955 undefeated Cathedral Panthers.

The Cathedral Football team of 1998 capped an 11-0 season with the Western-Central Massachusetts Super Bowl Championship. Third year Head Coach Matt Ballard, and Assistants Tom Sheehan, Stefan Davis, and Greg Gebro, led a senior-laden squad back to the heights first reached by the likes of Bertelli and Buoniconti. Although the 1998 team was led by upperclassmen, Coach Ballard is looking forward to the return of 27 of his Champions next year.

The members of the 1998 Super Bowl Champion Cathedral High School Football team are: Seniors: Michael Buoniconti, Timothy Dean, Phillip Gervais, Bartholomew "B.J." Lawlor, Anthony Luvera, Christian McCollum, Christopher McDonald, Timothy McDaid, William Ostiguy, Bryan Picard, Michael Rivard, Jeffrey Santiago, Samuel Scott, Justin Simmons, Shawn Torres, and William Torres; Juniors: Vincente Buoniconti, Brett Cook, Sean Cox, Richard Cummings, Daniel Keyes, Jonathon Koldys, Derick Lamoureux, Taren Latta, Michael Martin, Brendan McDonald, John Piascik, and Matthew Yvon; Sophomores: George Bahlke, Michael Britt, Joseph Camerota, Shaun Carpenter, Michael Christman, Benjamin Dagenais, Matthew Gendron, Brandon Jones, Joseph Luvera, Timothy Manning, Jonathon Miller, Michael Ojunga, Devon Robinson, Steven Snow, and Liam Walsh.

The accomplishments of the Cathedral High School Girls Soccer team are no less impressive. For the third straight year, the team was led by Head Coach Larry Kelly and Assistant Coach Laura Wray. Over these three years, the Panthers have amassed a record of 49-4-7 and three straight Western Massachusetts Championships.

The 1998 team finished the season 21-2, ranker #12 in the nation, and became Massachusetts State Co-Champions with the #1 team in the nation, Winchester High School. The Panthers scored 115 goals, while letting in only 10. The girls were named a High School Academic All-America Team and Senior Mary McVeigh was named All-America, and Gatorade Player of the Year for Massachusetts. Although the 1998 squad was led by an extremely skillful group of seniors, Coach Kelly expects his tenacious underclasswomen to be ready for the challenges of 1999.

The members of the 1998 Massachusetts State Co-Champion Cathedral Girls Soccer team are: Seniors: Kathryn Crisostomo, Lauren Downey, Casey Fitzgerald, Alison, LaMontagne, Christine LaValley, Cindy Lilly, Mary McVeigh, Melanie Mucha, Maura Neal, and Melissa Rowe; Juniors: Jamie Athas, Carissa Caulfield, Cathrine Kirwan-Avila, Katie Leydon, Kelly Quinn, Kady Robbins, Vanessa Saundars, Annie Tudryn; Sophomores: Jessica Bain, Kara Downey, Cristin Goodwin, Michelle Jette, Toni Pantuosco, Nicole Scibelli, Crystal Stanton, and Jenn Woytowicz; and first year student Shannon Donnelly.

## INTRODUCTION OF THE PERSONAL INFORMATION PRIVACY ACT

**HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, information on the most personal aspects of our lives continues to be spread across the landscape. Once taken for granted, our wall of privacy is crumbling.

Today, I am re-introducing the Personal Information Privacy Act. This legislation attempts to restore some control over the use of our personal information. The bill prevents credit bureaus from giving out Social Security numbers and prohibits the sale or purchase of any information that includes anyone's Social Se-

curity number unless they have written consent to do so.

A merchant who requires a Social Security number on a check used for a purchase or a cable company who demands a Social Security number on an application for service will be prohibited from such practices or be charged with an unfair and deceptive business violation.

Further, this bill prohibits any state department of motor vehicles from selling drivers' photographs and drivers lists containing Social Security numbers. In addition, marketers will not be able to sell consumers' purchasing experiences or credit transactions without prior approval.

This bill also provides for civil and criminal penalties for violations. The criminal penalties are now possible because of action taken in the 105th Congress. Last year, Congress passed the Identity Theft and Assumption Deterrence Act, which, for the first time, criminalizes identity theft. Finally, victims of identity theft have a means to prosecute those who assume their identities and ruin their credit histories. While I am pleased that this legislation, which I cosponsored, was signed into law by President Clinton, I feel that further action is needed. We must pass legislation to prevent these crimes from occurring.

This legislation is necessary because anyone's personal information is easily accessible, be it through the presentation of false identification or through the internet. The information can be as innocuous as a name, address, and phone number or as intrusive as a detailed summary of personal finances, including bank account balances and investment portfolios.

One of the main reasons information is so accessible is that a person's Social Security number has become a personal identifier. Many private entities, from doctors to universities, now follow the example of the federal government by using the SSN as an identifier.

Recently, the Government Accounting Office completed a report that states "No single federal law regulates the overall uses of SSNs." It further notes that "Businesses and governments are not limited to using SSNs for purposes required by federal law." Consequently, requiring a person's SSN, the key to a wealth of personal information, as a condition of doing business is now common practice.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is designed to curtail the rampant invasion of our privacy. What we buy and where we buy it is no one's business but our own. And, the unauthorized use and abuse of our Social Security number must stop. I urge all of my colleagues to cosponsor and support this legislation.

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE

The title of this Act is the "Personal Information Privacy Act of 1999."

### SECTION 2. CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT OF CREDIT HEADER INFORMATION

Section 2 would add a sentence to §603(d) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA), 15 U.S.C. §1681a(d), which defines the term "consumer report" for purposes of the FCRA. The team currently means, essentially, any communication of information by a consumer reporting agency about a consumer that is used or expected to be used as a factor in establishing the consumer's eligibility for credit, insurance, employment, or for any other legitimate business purpose. Under §604 of the FCRA, 15 U.S.C. §1681b, a consumer report-

ing agency may not furnish a consumer report except for specified purposes. The new sentence that §2 would add to the definition of "consumer report" provides: "The term also includes any other identifying information of the consumer, except the name, address, and telephone number of the consumer if listed in a residential telephone directory available in the locality of the consumer." If this new sentence becomes law, then consumer reporting agencies would be prohibited from disclosing such identifying information except for a purpose specified in §604.

### SECTION 3. PROTECTING PRIVACY BY PROHIBITING USE OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES WITHOUT CONSENT

This section would add a new section to the general administrative provisions of Title 11 of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. §§1301 et seq., prohibiting persons from buying or selling any information that includes an individual's social security account number ("SSN"), without the written consent of the individual. In addition, no person may use an individual's SSN for identification purposes without the written consent of the individual. In order for consent to be valid, the person desiring to use an individual's SSN must inform the individual of all the purposes for which the SSN will be utilized, the persons to whom the number will be known, and obtain the individual's consent in writing.

These new prohibitions would not affect any statutorily authorized uses of the SSN under §205(c)(2) of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. §405(c)(2) (SSN used for Social Security wage records, and for various enumerated purposes by federal agencies and state and local governments), §7(a)(2) of the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a note) (authorizing state and local governments to require disclosure of an individual's SSN if required by federal law or if the required disclosure was pursuant to a system of records in effect prior to January 1, 1975), or 26 U.S.C. §6109(d) (an individual's SSN is used for all identifying purposes specified in the Tax Code).

Individuals are authorized to bring a civil action seeking equitable relief and damages in a U.S. District Court for violations of this section. Damages may include the greater of actual damages or liquidated damages of \$25,000, or, in case of a willful violation resulting in profit or monetary gain, \$50,000. The court may assess, against the respondent, reasonable attorney's fees and other litigation costs in cases where an individual prevails. A statute of limitation of 3 years is provided. The remedies provided by this section are in addition to any other lawful remedies available to an individual.

The Commissioner of Social Security is authorized to assess a civil money penalty of not more than \$25,000 for each violation of this section, or in the case of violations found to constitute a general business practice, not more than \$500,000. The enforcement procedures for civil money penalties are the same as set forth in section 1128A of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. §1320a-7a(d), (e), (g), (k), (l) and the first sentence of (c). These set forth the criteria for determining the amount of the civil penalty, the investigation and injunction authority of the Commissioner, and courts of appeals review of civil money penalty determinations. Also applicable are the provisions of section 205(d) and (e) of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. §405(d) and (e), which authorize the Commissioner of Social Security to



issue subpoenas during investigations, and provide for judicial enforcement of such subpoenas.

The Commissioner of Social Security is directed to coordinate enforcement of the provisions of this section with the Justice Department's enforcement of criminal provisions relating to fraudulent identification documents, and with the Federal Trade Commission's jurisdiction relating to identity theft violations.

The provisions of this section do not preclude state laws relating to protection of privacy that are consistent with this section. The effective date of this section would be two years after enactment of this bill.

If a person refuses to do business with an individual because the individual will not consent to disclosure of this or her SSN, then such refusal will be considered an unfair or deceptive act of practice under section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. § 45). The Commission may issue a cease and desist order, violation of which is subject to civil money penalties of up to \$10,000 per violation.

#### SECTION 4. RESTRICTION ON USE OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS BY STATE DEPARTMENTS OF MOTOR VEHICLES

18 U.S.C. § 2721(b) sets forth permissible uses of personal information obtained by a state department of motor vehicles. This section provides that, with respect to the SSN of an individual, such personal information may only be disclosed to a government agency, court or law enforcement agency in carrying out its functions to the extent permitted or required under section 205(c)(2) of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 405(c)(2), section 7a(2) of the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. § 552a note, section 6109(d) of the Internal Revenue Code, or any other provision of law specifically identifying such use. This section would also prohibit the disclosure of SSNs by state departments of motor vehicles for bulk distributions for surveys, marketing or solicitations purposes.

#### SECTION 5. RESTRICTION ON USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS BY STATE DEPARTMENTS OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Section 5(a) would add a new subsection to 18 U.S.C. § 2721, which currently generally prohibits the release of certain personal information from state motor vehicle records. This new subsection would prohibit the release of an individual's photograph, in any form or format, by a state department of motor vehicles without the express written consent of the individual. An exception would be permitted for disclosure of an individual's photograph to a law enforcement agency of any government for a civil or criminal law enforcement activity if authorized by law and pursuant to a written request.

Section 5(b) would make technical amendments to 18 U.S.C. § 2721(a) and (b) to conform that section to the new provisions added by this section. It would also amend 18 U.S.C. § 2722(a) to reference the new subsection (e) added by this section.

#### SECTION 6. REPEAL OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE CONSUMER REPORTS IN CONNECTION WITH CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS NOT INITIATED BY THE CONSUMER

Section 6(a) would amend § 604(c) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA), 15 U.S.C. § 1681b(c), which governs prescreening to determine a consumer's eligibility for credit or insurance. Prescreening is a practice whereby a user of consumer reports, such as a lender or insurer, contacts a consumer reporting agency

without having received an application for credit or insurance from a particular consumer. The user might submit a list of names and ask the agency to identify persons on the list who meet criteria that the user specifies. Or it might ask the consumer reporting agency to create its own list based on the user's criteria. Section 604(c) currently prohibits prescreening, except in two situations, to determine a consumer's eligibility for credit or insurance. It prohibits, in other words, except in two situations, a consumer reporting agency from furnishing a report on a consumer who has not applied for credit or insurance.

The two situations in which it permits prescreening are when: (1) the consumer authorizes the consumer reporting agency to provide the report, or (2) the lender or insurer will make a firm offer to the consumer if prescreening shows the consumer eligible for credit or insurance, and the consumer has not previously asked to be excluded from prescreening done by the consumer reporting agency. Section 6(a) would, in effect, prohibit prescreening in connection with credit and insurance except when authorized by the consumer. It would amend § 604(c)(1) to provide that a consumer reporting agency would be permitted to furnish a consumer report in connection with a "credit or insurance transaction that is not initiated by consumer only if the consumer provides express written authorization in accordance with paragraph (2). . . ." "Paragraph (2)" refers to § 604(c)(2) of the FCRA, which would be rewritten by § 6(b) of the bill.

Section 6(b) would rewrite § 604(c)(2) to provide: "No authorization referred to in paragraph (1) [§ 604(c)(1)] with respect to any consumer shall be effective unless the consumer received a notice before such authorization is provided which fully and fairly discloses, in accordance with regulations which the Federal Trade Commission and the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System shall jointly prescribe, what specifically is being authorized by the consumer and the potential positive and negative effects the provision of such authorization will have on the consumer." The regulations would have to require that the notice be prominently displayed on a separate document or, if the notice appears on a document with other information, that it be clear and conspicuous.

Section 6(c) would repeal the provision, mentioned above, that allows consumers to exclude themselves from prescreening lists. The provision would be unnecessary if prescreening were prohibited except when a consumer had authorized it.

#### SECTION 7. SALE OR TRANSFER OF TRANSACTION OR EXPERIENCE INFORMATION PROHIBITED

Section 7(a) would add a new § 626 to the FCRA. New § 626(a) would provide: "No person doing business with a consumer may sell, transfer, or otherwise provide to any other person, for the purpose of marketing such information to any other person, any transaction or experience information relating to the consumer, without the consumer's express written consent." A consumer's consent would not be required for the sale, transfer, or provision of transaction or experience information for a purpose other than marketing.

New § 626(b) would define "transaction or experience information" as "any information identifying the content or subject of 1 or more transactions between the consumer and a per-

son doing business with a consumer. . . ." Section 626(c) would allow six exceptions, where a consumer's consent would not be required for the provision of transaction or experience information: (1) communications "solely among persons related by common ownership or affiliated by corporate control," (2) information provided pursuant to court order or federal grand jury subpoena, (3) "[i]nformation provided in connection with the licensing or registration by a government agency or department, or any transfer of such license or registration, of any personal property bought, sold, or transferred by the consumer," (4) "[i]nformation required to be provided in connection with any transaction in real estate," (5) "[i]nformation required to be provided in connection with perfecting a security interest in personal property," and (6) "[i]nformation relating to the amount of any transaction or any credit extended in connection with a transaction with a consumer."

Section 7(b) would make a technical amendment to § 603(d)(2)(A) of the FCRA to ensure that it does not conflict with new § 626, and § 7(c) would make a clerical amendment to add a reference to new § 626 to the table of sections for the FCRA.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE CANTON HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND'S INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION CHAMPIONSHIP IN DUBLIN, IRELAND

**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the latest achievement of a wonderful group of young men and women from my district—the Canton, Texas, Mighty Eagle High School Band. Just last month, on St. Patrick's Day, I came before the House to honor the numerous awards and recognitions that have been bestowed upon these youngsters. In addition, I wanted to publicly acknowledge them for being chosen to represent the State of Texas in Dublin, Ireland, on St. Patrick's Day, for that city's St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Mr. Speaker, not only did the Canton High School Band go to Dublin, Ireland to perform, but they won the international competition by winning the event's top prize. The Eagle Band "wowed" the five member international judging panel with its rendition of "Festive Overture" by Dmitri Shostakovich. For its winning performance, the Eagle Band was recognized by Dublin Lord Mayor, Joe Doyle, with the parade competition championship trophy.

Playing before crowds of people and ambassadors from France, Russia, Argentina, England and Germany, the Canton Band proudly represented their home town, the State of Texas and the United States. As we adjourn today, let us do so in honor of the Canton Mighty Eagle Band and their latest achievement.



NOBEL LAUREATE ELIE WIESEL  
TEACHES ABOUT THE TRAGEDY  
OF INDIFFERENCE

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, few Americans more epitomize the nobility of America's moral strength than Dr. Elie Wiesel, the 1986 recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize and a survivor of the Holocaust. Elie has devoted his life to ensuring that the tragedy of his youth is never again repeated. His passionate and unyielding defense of human rights is a model to all of us.

Last Monday night, Elie Wiesel spoke at the White House at a Millennium Evening Forum including President and Mrs. Clinton and an audience of distinguished guests. His speech—"The Perils of Indifference: Lessons Learned From A Violent Century"—eloquently describes the most lasting moral peril of the Holocaust nightmare: the apathy of those who sat silently while millions were slaughtered by Nazi Germany. As reports of Hitler's atrocities mounted during the late 1930's and early 1940's, corporations continued to conduct business with the Third Reich, refugees were denied admission to a host of nations, tragically including to the United States, and free peoples refused to act to stop Hitler's killing machine.

Without such passive disregard for human life, many of the six million victims of the Holocaust might have lived. "In a way, to be indifferent to that suffering is what makes the human being inhuman," explained Dr. Wiesel, "Indifference, after all, is more dangerous than anger and hatred."

The reflections of Elie Wiesel are particularly significant given the ongoing war crimes of Slobodan Milosevic and the Serbian government against untold thousands of Kosovar Albanians. Elie acknowledged the undeniable moral character of NATO's military campaign against these outrageous human rights atrocities, and he pointed out the sharp contrast with the world's reaction during the Holocaust: "This time, the world was not silent. This time, we do respond. This time, we intervene."

Mr. Speaker, Elie Wiesel is right. America must remain committed to military campaign to help the suffering Albanian victims of Milosevic's brutal campaign of ethnic cleansing in Kosova. We must also maintain our commitment to fight against human rights abuses throughout the world.

Dr. Elie Wiesel is the Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities at Boston University. In addition to the Nobel Peace Prize, he has been awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the United States Congressional God Medal, and the Medal of Liberty Award. Elie's talents as a teacher, author, and orator have enlightened generations of students and citizens for nearly five decades.

Mr. Speaker, as we mark the Days of Remembrance this week, I urge my colleagues to read carefully the thoughtful reflections of Dr. Elie Wiesel.

THE PERILS OF INDIFFERENCE: LESSONS  
LEARNED FROM A VIOLENT CENTURY, REMARKS AT MILLENNIUM EVENING, THE WHITE HOUSE, APRIL 12

Mr. WIESEL. Mr. President, Mrs. Clinton, members of Congress, Ambassador

Holbrooke, Excellencies, friends: Fifty-four years ago to the day, a young Jewish boy from a small town in the Carpathian Mountains woke up, not far from Goethe's beloved Weimar, in a place of eternal infamy called Buchenwald. He was finally free, but there was no joy in his heart. He thought there never would be again.

Liberated a day earlier by American soldiers, he remembers their rage at what they saw. And even if he lives to be a very old man, he will always be grateful to them for that rage, and also for their compassion. Though he did not understand their language, their eyes told him what he needed to know—that they, too, would remember, and bear witness.

And now, I stand before you, Mr. President—Commander-in-Chief of the army that freed me, and tens of thousands of others—and I am filled with a profound and abiding gratitude to the American people.

Gratitude is a word that I cherish. Gratitude is what defines the humanity of the human being. And I am grateful to you, Hillary—or Mrs. Clinton—for what you said, and for what you are doing for children in the world, for the homeless, for the victims of injustice, the victims of destiny and society. And I thank all of you for being here.

We are on the threshold of a new century, a new millennium. What will the legacy of this vanishing century be? How will it be remembered in the new millennium? Surely it will be judged, and judged severely, in both moral and metaphysical terms. These failures have cast a dark shadow over humanity: two World Wars, countless civil wars, the senseless chain of assassinations—Gandhi, the Kennedys, Martin Luther King, Sadat, Rabin—bloodbaths in Cambodia and Nigeria, India and Pakistan, Ireland and Rwanda, Eritrea and Ethiopia, Sarajevo and Kosovo; the inhumanity in the gulag and the tragedy of Hiroshima. And, on a different level, of course, Auschwitz and Treblinka. So much violence, so much indifference.

What is indifference? Etymologically, the word means "no difference." A strange and unnatural state in which the lines blur between light and darkness, dusk and dawn, crime and punishment, cruelty and compassion, good and evil.

What are its courses and inescapable consequences? Is it a philosophy? Is there a philosophy of indifference conceivable? Can one possibly view indifference as a virtue? Is it necessary at times to practice it simply to keep one's sanity, live normally, enjoy a fine meal and a glass of wine, as the world around us experiences harrowing upheavals?

Of course, indifference can be tempting—more than that, seductive. It is so much easier to look away from victims. It is so much easier to avoid such rude interruptions to our work, our dreams, our hopes. It is, after all, awkward, troublesome, to be involved in another person's pain and despair. Yet, for the person who is indifferent, his or her neighbor are of no consequence. And, therefore, their lives are meaningless. Their hidden or even visible anguish is of no interest. Indifference reduces the other to an abstraction.

Over there, behind the black gates of Auschwitz, the most tragic of all prisoners were the "Muselmänner," as they were called. Wrapped in their torn blankets, they would sit or lie on the ground, staring vacantly into space, unaware of who or where they were, strangers to their surroundings. They no longer felt pain, hunger, thirst. They feared nothing. They felt nothing. They were dead and did not know it.

Rooted in our tradition, some of us felt that to be abandoned by humanity then was not the ultimate. We felt that to be abandoned by God was worse than to be punished

by Him. Better an unjust God than an indifferent one. For us to be ignored by God was a harsher punishment than to be a victim of His anger; Man can live far from God—not outside God. God is wherever we are. Even in suffering? Even in suffering.

In a way, to be indifferent to that suffering is what makes the human being inhuman. Indifference, after all, is more dangerous than anger and hatred. Anger can at times be creative. One writes a great poem, a great symphony, have done something special for the sake of humanity because one is angry at the injustice that one witnesses. But indifference is never creative. Even hatred at times may elicit a response. You fight it. You denounce it. You disarm it. Indifference elicits no response. Indifference is not a response.

Indifference is not a beginning, it is an end. And, therefore, indifference is always the friend of the enemy, for it benefits the aggressor—never his victim, whose pain is magnified when he or she feels forgotten. The political prisoner in his cell, the hungry children, the homeless refugees—not to respond to their plight, not to relieve their solitude by offering them a spark of hope is to exile them from human memory. And in denying their humanity we betray our own.

Indifference, then, is not only a sin, it is a punishment. And this is one of the most important lessons of this outgoing century's wide-ranging experiments in good and evil.

In the place that I come from, society was composed of three simple categories: The killers, the victims, and the bystanders. During the darkest of times inside the ghettos and death camps—and I'm glad that Mrs. Clinton mentioned that we are now commemorating that event, that period, that we are now in the Days of Remembrance—but then, we felt abandoned, forgotten. All of us did.

And our only miserable consolation was that we believed that Auschwitz and Treblinka were closely guarded secrets; that the leaders of the free world did not know what was going on behind those black gates and barbed wire; that they had no knowledge of the war against the Jews that Hitler's armies and their accomplices waged as part of the war against the Allies.

If they knew, we thought, surely those leaders would have moved heaven and earth to intervene. They would have spoken out with great outrage and conviction. They would have bombed the railways leading to Birkenau, just the railways, just once.

And now we knew, we learned, we discovered that the Pentagon knew, the State Department knew. And the illustrious occupant of the White House then, who was a great leader—and I say it with some anguish and pain, because, today is exactly 54 years marking his death—Franklin Delano Roosevelt died on April the 12th, 1945, so he is very much present to me and to us.

No doubt, he was a great leader. He mobilized the American people and the world, going into battle, bringing hundreds and thousands of valiant and brave soldiers in America to fight fascism, to fight dictatorship, to fight Hitler. And so many of the young people fell in battle. And, nevertheless, his image in Jewish history—I must say it—his image in Jewish history is flawed.

The depressing tale of the *St. Louis* is a case in point. Sixty years ago, its human cargo—maybe 1,000 Jews—was turned back to Nazi Germany. And that happened after the Kristallnacht, after the first state sponsored pogrom, with hundreds of Jewish shops destroyed, synagogues burned, thousands of people put in concentration camps. And that ship, which was already on the shores of the United States, was sent back.

I don't understand. Roosevelt was a good man, with a heart. He understood those who

needed help. Why didn't he allow these refugees to disembark? A thousand people—in America, a great country, the greatest democracy, the most generous of all new nations in modern history. What happened? I don't understand. Why the indifference, on the highest level, to the suffering of the victims?

But then, there were human beings who were sensitive to our tragedy. Those non-Jews, those Christians, that we called the "Righteous Gentiles," whose selfless acts of heroism saved the honor of their faith. Why were they so few? Why was there a greater effort to save SS murderers after the war than to save their victims during the war?

Why did some of America's largest corporations continue to do business with Hitler's Germany until 1942? It has been suggested, and it was documented, that the Wehrmacht could not have conducted its invasion of France without oil obtained from American sources. How is one to explain their indifference?

And yet, my friends, good things have also happened in this traumatic century: the defeat of Nazism, the collapse of communism, the rebirth of Israel on its ancestral soil, the demise of apartheid, Israel's peace treaty with Egypt, the peace accord in Ireland. And let us remember the meeting, filled with drama and emotion, between Rabin and Arafat that you, Mr. President, convened in this very place. I was here and I will never forget it.

And then, of course, the joint decision of the United States and NATO to intervene in Kosovo and save those victims, those refugees, those who were uprooted by a man whom I believe that because of his crimes, should be charged with crimes against humanity. But this time, the world was not silent. This time, we do respond. This time, we intervene.

Does it mean that we have learned from the past? Does it mean that society has changed? Has the human being become less indifferent and more human? Have we really learned from our experiences? Are we less insensitive to the plight of victims of ethnic cleansing and other forms of injustices in places near and far? Is today's justified intervention in Kosovo, led by you, Mr. President, a lasting warning that never again will the deportation, the terrorization of children and their parents be allowed anywhere in the world? Will it discourage other dictators in other lands to do the same?

What about the children? Oh, we see them on television, we read about them in the papers, and we do so with a broken heart. Their fate is always the most tragic, inevitably. When adults wage war, children perish. We see their faces, their eyes. Do we hear their pleas? Do we feel their pain, their agony? Every minute one of them dies of disease, violence, famine. Some of them—so many of them—could be saved.

And so, once again, I think of the young Jewish boy from the Carpathian Mountains. He has accompanied the old man I have become throughout these years of quest and struggle. And together we walk towards the new millennium, carried by profound fear and extraordinary hope.

#### BUILDING TRANSPORTATION ASSETS FOR AMERICA

**HON. TILLIE K. FOWLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mrs. FOWLER. Mr. Speaker, improvements to our nation's state and local infrastructure

are necessary and long overdue. Economic growth and vitality hinge on a region's ability to accommodate commercial and commuter traffic both safely and efficiently. I am proud to say that last year's TEA-21 legislation, which I cosponsored, has begun to address these critical transportation needs, through honest, off-budget funding. I rise today to submit for the record an editorial that appeared last month in the Tampa Tribune. This editorial illustrates how local concerns are being met under the new funding formulas.

[From the Tampa Tribune, Mar. 3, 1999]

#### BUD SHUSTER'S WORDS OF WISDOM

U.S. Rep. Bud Shuster, chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, made a field trip to Tampa the other day to see our port, airport and highways.

There is general agreement here on the importance of air and sea transport, but the community is divided on ground transportation—whether to continue to depend entirely on roads or to augment them with a commuter rail line that would largely follow existing freight rail rights of way.

Shuster's advice: If you can, build rail.

"When you have right of way, you're half-way there," he told us. "Light rail seems to be pretty darn efficient."

This from a solidly conservative congressman representing a Pennsylvania mountain district that has been Republican since 1860.

Shuster helped deregulate trucking and has consistently pushed to give local governments more say in how federal transportation money is spent. Now up to half the federal gasoline tax revenue in any one category can be diverted to another, which means some highway money can be spent on transit and vice versa. This flexibility gives state and local governments more power, which puts them under more pressure to make intelligent choices.

The new transportation law is sending Florida about \$440 million more per year, a sum that partially corrects the old funding formula that for years shortchanged fast-growing states.

Shuster argues convincingly that all federal gasoline taxes should be spent on transportation and that all airline ticket taxes should be spent on aviation improvements. If the money isn't needed, reduce the tax rate. But the money is desperately needed, so Congress should invest it to improve the national economy and public safety.

He dismisses as ill-informed the often repeated criticism that Congress loaded the latest highway bill with pork. High-priority congressional projects account for 5 percent of the spending, and all those projects require the written support of the state departments of transportation. Even if all these special projects are unnecessarily fat, which they aren't, the remaining 95 percent of the money is going back to state and local governments.

Shuster, a veteran of the endless tug of war over limited revenues, conceded. "These decisions are not made by angels up in heaven."

They are made largely by men and women here at the local level, and the better informed they are, the more wisely they will invest tax-payers' money. It should interest them that the neutral advice from conservative Bud Shuster, who is neither campaigning here nor speculating in local real estate, is to seriously consider rail.

#### ST. ALOYSIUS CENTENNIAL

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Saint Aloysius Church, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, on the occasion of its Centennial Celebration. I am pleased and proud to bring the history of this fine parish to the attention of my colleagues.

Thirty-four families came to Father Richard McAndrew in 1899 with the request for their own church in South Wilkes-Barre. Father McAndrew petitioned Bishop Hoban for a new parish and on April 29, 1900, the Bishop came to lay the cornerstone for the new church building. As founding pastor, Father McAndrew helped in the first months until the parish's first official pastor was named, Father Thomas Brehony. Father Griffin, who was named as Father Brehony's assistant, later became the church's second pastor.

In 1913, Father McCarthy was installed as the church's third pastor and would serve the parish for thirty-two years. By the end of World War I, the church had outgrown its original building, so a beautiful new gothic church was constructed and dedicated by the Archbishop of Philadelphia in 1927. Father McCarthy continued the expansion with a new rectory in 1938.

When Father McCarthy died and Father Monahan took over St. Aloysius, he undertook the huge task of founding a school for the parishioners of St. Aloysius. Beginning with just a kindergarten, each year the school expanded a grade until there were eight grades. With the new school staffed by the Sisters of Mercy, the expansion of the school necessitated the expansion of the convent, so a new convent was dedicated in 1963.

Tragically, Tropical Storm Agnes swelled the Susquehanna River in June of 1972 until it spilled its banks and flooded all of Wyoming Valley, including St. Aloysius Church and its parish buildings. The interior of the church was totally ruined and the parish was devastated. The Pastor at that time, Father Padden, undertook the task of restoring the buildings after the disaster. Over a million dollars were spent on restoration, using loans from the disaster relief programs in place at the time. The last payment on that money was made in 1992.

In 1982, with Father Padden's retirement, Msgr. Donald A. McAndrews, the Director of Catholic Social Services, was appointed as sixth Pastor of St. Aloysius. Throughout his tenure, Msgr. McAndrews has continued the expansion and modernization of the parish. The parish's school, which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1998, now has an all-day faculty and provides a quality education to 265 students.

Mr. Speaker, St. Aloysius Church is part of a tradition of strong religious faith which is synonymous with the Wyoming Valley. Founded by thirty-four families, the church serves eighteen hundred families today. Its proud history is a testament to the importance of faith in our daily lives in Northeastern Pennsylvania. I am proud to join with the parishioners and with the community in wishing St. Aloysius Church the very best as it enters a new century and a new millennium.

HONORING PASTOR RODNEY H. TRAVIS

**HON. JAMES M. TALENT**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with the honor and pleasure of recognizing Pastor Rodney H. Travis of the First Baptist Church in Ellisville, Missouri. Pastor Travis will open today's session of the United States House of Representatives with the invocation. Pastor Travis is a generous and eloquent man, and he offers a moving invocation.

Pastor Travis is an outstanding member of the St. Louis community. Pastor Travis and his wife Karen Sue and their children Shawn Renae and Tiffany Hope have been in Missouri since 1982, serving at the First Baptist Church in Jackson, Missouri before coming to Ellisville in 1995. Over the last four years, he has diligently served his congregation and the community.

Pastor Travis has served God in many ways since receiving his Master of Divinity from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1979 and later his Doctor of Ministry from Vanderbilt University in 1979. He has served as Trustee of Missouri Baptist College and has held numerous positions with the Missouri Baptist Convention, including serving as President from 1991–1992. He has volunteered as chaplain in Tennessee prison system and as a Police Department Chaplain. His words have served as inspiration to thousands through the Sunday School lessons he wrote for the Baptist publication *World and Way* and for the Baptist Sunday School Board "Listening in Prayer." He also has been named to the International Mission Board Trustee and will serve in this capacity until 2003.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be able to introduce Pastor Travis to the United States House of Representatives, and I am moved that he has accepted this honor and will share with us his blessing.

IN SUPPORT OF THE MORTGAGE INTEREST DEDUCTION

**HON. LOIS CAPPS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today is April 15th, tax day. It's a good day to take a thoughtful look at our tax policy.

Yes, we must reduce our tax burden, bring more fairness to our tax law, and simplify the tax code. But today we must also be very wary of gimmicks, schemes, and risky proposals.

I am particularly concerned about proposals like the flat tax that would eliminate the mortgage interest deduction.

This tax policy has greatly improved the quality of life for millions of middle class families across our nation. It has enabled countless families in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties to raise their children in stable, secure neighborhoods. Home ownership is on the increase across America, and with this increase comes better schools, less crime, and more civic participation.

Owning a home contributes enormously to the financial security of our families. Nothing symbolizes the American dream more than owning a home. For this reason, I am the proud cosponsor of a Congressional resolution expressing strong support for the protection of the home mortgage interest tax deduction. On tax day, let's commit ourselves to making the ideal of home ownership a reality for all Americans.

EXPOSING RACISM

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, in my continuing efforts to document and expose racism in America, I submit the following articles into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES ARRESTS IN INDIANA CHURCH BURNINGS

(By Rex W. Huppke)

INDIANAPOLIS (AP).—A man charged with seven Indiana church fires may be responsible for up to 50 such arsons across the Midwest and South, including Mississippi.

Probable cause affidavits accompanying the formal charges brought against Jay Scott Ballinger paint a picture of a 36-year-old who burned churches at random while traveling with his girlfriend, an exotic dancer.

The U.S. Department of Justice announced Tuesday that Ballinger had been arrested and charged with setting seven Indiana church fires dating back to 1994. The Yorktown man was being held in federal custody in Indianapolis while a multi-agency investigation continues.

Charged with one count each of arson are Angela Wood, 24, of Atlanta, Ga., and Donald A. Puckett, 37, of Lebanon, Ind. Wood is in federal custody in Macon, Ga., and Puckett is being held in Indianapolis.

Wood has admitted to serving as a lookout during some of the other fires Ballinger allegedly set, according to the affidavit, and both Wood and Puckett are believed to have helped Ballinger burn down the Concord Church of Christ in Lebanon, Ind., in 1994.

U.S. Attorney Judith A. Stewart would not give information on a motive for the arsons. She said that because the charges are part of a federal criminal complaint she couldn't comment on the investigation until formal charges were brought before a grand jury.

All three arrested are white and most of the church burnings in Indiana have involved rural churches with predominately white congregations.

"When someone sets fire to a house of worship, they are not just setting fire to a building, but to an entire community," said Bill Lann Lee, assistant attorney general for the Justice Department's civil rights division.

The arrests stemmed from the work of the National Church Arson Task Force, established in 1996 after a series of fires at black churches in the South.

An affidavit from a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agent says that searches of Ballinger's central Indiana residence turned up a gasoline container and satanic books and writings. Also found were credit card statements showing purchases made in Indiana and other states on or about the dates of church fires in those areas.

The affidavit says Ballinger admitted to setting "a total of approximately thirty to

fifty" church fires in Indiana and other states.

Jerry Singer, a special agent with the ATF, said the fires involve 11 states, including Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, Mississippi, Georgia and Alabama, all of which were mentioned in the affidavits. Singer would not identify the other four states involved.

He said that in his 21 years with the ATF, this is the largest serial arson case he's seen.

The affidavit details the events that led to Ballinger's arrest: On Feb. 6, 1999, a church in Brookville, Ohio, was burned. Three days later, a detective from the Ball State University Police Department in Muncie overheard an emergency radio call for medical assistance at the Ballinger residence in Yorktown, a few miles west of Muncie.

The officer recognized the last name from a previous church arson investigation. He went to Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie and interviewed Ballinger's father, who said his son was badly burned when he came home early in the morning on Feb. 7.

The officer notified federal investigators of the incident at the hospital. During interviews with law enforcement officials Feb. 19–21, Ballinger admitted to the various arsons.

Ballinger had at least one prior offense—a 1993 arrest on charges of contributing to the delinquency of a minor. According to court records, he was arrested near Daleville for allowing two teen-agers to consume alcohol in his car.

A warrant was issued for his arrest in Delaware County in 1994 after he failed to show up at a court hearing on those charges.

One of the affidavits in the church arson case said that Puckett admitted that he, Ballinger and Wood set fire to the Concord Church of Christ in Lebanon, Ind., in January 1994.

According to the affidavit, Ballinger and Wood met at Puckett's home, mixed several flammable liquids together then left to find a church to burn.

They picked the Concord Church of Christ at random. Wood allegedly wrote satanic symbols on the porch, Puckett sprayed the flammable mixture and Ballinger lit the fire. The church was destroyed.

JURY AWARDS \$720,000 TO COUPLE IN CROSS-BURNING CASE

CHICAGO (AP).—A federal jury has awarded \$720,000 in damages to a black couple whose suburban home was targeted by a white neighbor with a cross-burning.

After a one-day hearing, jurors deliberated about an hour Monday before deciding in favor of Andre Bailey and Sharon Henderson of Blue Island, who are married, and who filed the lawsuit against Thomas Budlove Jr.

Budlove has failed to respond to the lawsuit or appear in court, prompting a judge to rule last year that his conduct amounted to a tacit admission to the cross burning.

The incident occurred less than a year after Bailey and Henderson moved into the rented bungalow in the predominantly white neighborhood in September 1995. The couple alleged Budlove regularly shouted racial slurs at them from his property. Their tires were slashed, windows were broken, their dog wounded by gunfire and leaves burned on their front porch.

On June 13, 1996, Bailey said that as he stepped from his house to start his car, he was confronted by a 6-foot cross burning in the yard.

Lawyers for the couple and their two children sought at least \$300,000 in damages from Budlove. Attorneys for the family told the jury they doubted Budlove has that amount of money. But they urged the jury to send a message that hate crimes won't be tolerated.

## TRIAL BEGINS IN RACIST PLOT CASE

LITTLE ROCK, AR (AP).—Prosecutors opened their case against two white supremacists charged with murder by calling a former associate who said one suspect linked Jews and blacks to insects and animals.

Chevie Kehoe, 26, of Colville, Wash., and Danny Lee, 26, of Yukon, Okla., are also charged with racketeering and conspiracy.

Kehoe and Lee are accused of using a campaign of violence to set up a whites-only nation in the Pacific Northwest and could get the death penalty if convicted.

John Shults, a convict who says he has left the white supremacy movement, testified Monday that he joined Kehoe in the Northwest.

"We would make such comments as 'The Jews are nothing but maggots. The Jews should be exterminated.' . . . Black people were the beasts of the field, how they were meant to be lower than the white man, how we used them for caretaking," Shults said.

Members of the mostly black jury were expressionless. Shults also said Kehoe spoke of executing judges to spark a revolt.

The crimes associated with the alleged plot include a 1996 bombing at City Hall in Spokane, Wash.; shootouts with Ohio police; the slayings of two people in Idaho; and the drownings of a white Arkansas family of three.

U.S. Attorney Dan Stripling told jurors that Kehoe's beliefs were based on those of Robert Mathews, the founder of the Aryan Nations white supremacist group. Mathews was killed in 1984 when his hideout caught fire during a shootout with federal agents in Washington state.

The prosecutor said Kehoe and Lee robbed the Arkansas family in 1996 and killed them by taping plastic bags over their heads, weighing them down with rocks and throwing them into a bayou.

Later, the defendants told Kehoe's parents that the family was on "a liquid diet," Stripling said.

The judge has issued a gag order in the case, but Lee's mother, Lea Graham, said her son is innocent and no racist.

#### NATIONAL REPORT DESCRIBES 12 ORGANIZATIONS IN WISCONSIN AS HATE GROUPS (By the Associated Press)

Twelve Wisconsin organizations are being described as hate groups in a quarterly journal published by the Southern Poverty Law Center.

The "Intelligence Report" listed six groups described as neo-Nazi. They are the Euro-American Alliance in Milwaukee; the New Order in Milwaukee; the Knights of Freedom in Sullivan; and World Church of the Creator in Milwaukee, New Berlin and Franklin.

Also listed were two Ku Klux Klan groups, the American Knights of the Ku Klux Klan in Mercer and Imperial Klans of America, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan in Adams.

Two skinhead groups listed were the Hammerskin Nation in Hartland and Oi! Boys in Kenosha.

One Christian Identity church, the Wisconsin Church of Israel in Appleton, was named. Christian Identity describes "a religion that is fundamentally racist and anti-Semitic," the report said.

Also included was one black separatist group, a Nation of Islam affiliate in Milwaukee. Black separatists are organizations "whose ideologies include tenets of racially-based hatred," the report said.

Wisconsin had 10 hate groups listed by the journal in 1997, said Joseph Roy Sr., intelligence project director for the law center in Montgomery, Ala.

The law center listed 537 hate groups and group chapters nationwide engaging in racist

behavior in 1998 up from 474 the previous year.

Officials of nine of the Wisconsin groups listed could not be reached for comment.

Donald V. Clerkin, 60, of Greendale, chairman of the Euro-American Alliance, called the organization a "white nationalist" group concerned with, among other things, the threat immigration poses to "Western culture, European culture in North America."

"I consider it a badge of honor," he said of the listing. In Mercer, Michael McQueeney, 43, calls himself the national grand dragon for the National Knights of the Ku Klux Klan—Not the American Knights cited in the report.

He disputed the hate-group label. "I dislike a lot of blacks, Jews and homosexuals because of what they're doing in this country, but there's a lot of good Jews out there, and there's a lot of good black people out there," he said.

At Muhammad Mosque No. 3 in Milwaukee, part of the Nation of Islam, minister William Muhammad, 40, called it "totally false and slanderous" to call his denomination a hate group.

"The Nation of Islam teaches love—love of God, love of justice and love of self," Muhammad said. "Our goal and purpose is the upliftment of our people—the moral, spiritual, social and economic development and cultivation of our people."

#### IN HONOR OF LET'S CELEBRATE, INC., FOR ITS COMMITMENT TO FIGHTING HUNGER AND POVERTY IN HUDSON COUNTY

##### HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 1999

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Let's Celebrate, Inc., for its hard work and dedication to battling poverty in Hudson County.

For more than 17 years, Let's Celebrate, Inc., has been instrumental in assisting individuals "move from hunger to wholeness." By implementing a continuum of care through counseling, job training, emergency food assistance, adult basic education, and housing assistance, Let's Celebrate has become a vital force in stamping out poverty in my district.

With more than 40 staff members, 750 volunteers, and 27 service and meal sites throughout the area, this impressive organization is responsible for aiding and encouraging countless families to move from dependency to self-sufficiency.

Through innovative programs such as JobPower and Celebrate Catering, Let's Celebrate provides invaluable, hands-on training designed to help clients gain experience, develop job skills, and learn to adapt to a work environment. These efforts are so successful that Let's Celebrate secures jobs for 85 percent of its trainees.

In addition, Let's Celebrate supplies emergency food assistance programs through the Emergency Food Network and The Square Meal Community Center. These soup kitchens and pantries serve more than 125,000 meals per year to our neediest citizens—600 of which are distributed through the Senior Services program. They also help distribute clothing, offer counseling, and provide referrals.

Let's Celebrate's efforts exemplify leadership and dedication to eliminating poverty in

Hudson County. For these tremendous contributions to New Jersey, I am very happy to honor Let's Celebrate for its achievements on its 17th Anniversary. I salute and congratulate Let's Celebrate on these extraordinary accomplishments.

#### IN HONOR OF NORMANDY HIGH SCHOOL'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

##### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Normandy High School for its 30 years of excellence in educating the students of Parma, Ohio.

Normandy High School first opened its doors in the fall of 1968 and welcomed 1700 sophomore- and junior-year high school students. The architectural design of the school was unique and considered state-of-the-art when built 30 years ago. The first commencement exercise was in June 1970, with 525 young men and women receiving diplomas. Since this first commencement ceremony, 13,400 students have graduated. Normandy's current enrollment is 1,128 students and the staff consists of 87 faculty and 58 support people.

Normandy High School subscribes to rigorous academic standards and offers an extensive curriculum. There are accelerated course offerings in all academic areas. A full range of vocational education programs are also available. Normandy students' score on the standardized SAT and ACT tests are consistently above the State and National averages. The school's Renaissance Program demonstrates the commitment to academic excellence, continuous improvement and citizenship which contributes to the high caliber of graduates from the school. Normandy High School is indeed an outstanding asset to the Parma community.

Normandy not only has a fine academic program, but its athletic department is also well renowned. In addition to numerous victories in state playoffs, invitationals and tournaments, Normandy's athletes have accomplished the following LEL Championships: Baseball 1979, 1982 Softball 1976, 1977, 1983 Football 1981, 1982, 1983, John Thomas San Francisco 49er's Super Bowl Champs, Girls Basketball 1976–77, Cross Country 1984, 1989, 1998, 1973 All American Track & Field Curt Tesar, Golf 1988, 1990, 1992, 1998 Chris Wollman & Bernie Jablonski State Champs, Wrestling 1981, 1985, 1987 Volleyball 1976, 1978, 1982, 1988, 1995, 1998, Hockey Baron Cup Champs 1976, 1998, 1999.

Providing excellent educational opportunities for all children is one of the most important goals in our society. I am encouraged by the involvement of the students, teachers, administrators, parents, local businesses and community organizations who are celebrating the 30th anniversary of Normandy High School and working toward continued success and involvement in our schools.

I am confident that Normandy will continue to produce exceptional students who will greatly contribute to the future of the Parma community.

CONGRATULATIONS DIANNE S.  
NURY

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dianne Nury on her election as Chairman of the Wine Institute for the 1998–99 fiscal year. Dianne is the first woman to become Chairman of the Wine Institute.

Dianne Nury is president of family-owned Vie-Del Company in Fresno. Nury heads one of California's largest bulk winery, distillery and fruit juice processing operations, contracting with 1,000 growers located predominantly in the Central Valley. Nury is a native and resident of Fresno, she began her career as area sales manager for Seagrams after graduating in 1982 from California State University, Fresno with a degree in business. She joined Vie-Del in 1985 as a sales representative, she then became vice president of the company in 1988 until assuming the presidency in 1991 from her father. Dianne Nury is immediate past president of the National Juice Products Association and is current vice chairman of the Viticulture and Enology Research Center at CSU, Fresno.

As Chairman of the Wine Institute, Nury pledges to continue the focus of the Institute's progress for international market development and research funding. She will also emphasize the public policy issues that the Wine Institute has taken on, such as taxation and free and fair trade here and abroad.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dianne Nury, as Chairman of the Wine Institute. Dianne's chairmanship carries on a legacy set by her father, Mike Nury. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Dianne Nury many years of continued success.

IN HONOR OF SAN LORENZO CLUB

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the San Lorenzo Club and one of its co-founders Antonio Ramos for their service to the Cleveland community.

Antonio Ramos has been involved in many different organizations in the Hispanic and non-Hispanic community. He is the only active founder of the San Lorenzo Club, and has occupied almost all the positions in the Board of Directors through its existence. He also founded the Roberto Clemente Baseball Little League, to help create a sense of cultural identity for children. He now serves as President of the league.

The goal of the San Lorenzo Club, which has many members from different countries and cultures, is to have a place where Puerto Ricans can meet and feel a little bit like they are in their tropical island and at the same time promote their roots in a different country. When the club reached its goal of having their own place, after three years, not even a large fire which destroyed the building could dampen their dreams. Even with no place to

meet the club maintained the unity between members and started having their monthly meetings in members' houses.

The club has been a vital part of the Hispanic and non-Hispanic community in the Cleveland area. The club works to maintain its families through sports. The San Lorenzo Club is a permanent sponsor of the Roberto Clemente Baseball Little League in Cleveland, and pushed the city to rename the city park after the famous Puerto Rican baseball player. The club also works to help the Hispanic and non-Hispanic needy throughout the Cleveland area.

My fellow colleagues, join me in honoring both Antonio Ramos and the San Lorenzo Club for their outstanding service to the Cleveland area.

TRIBUTE TO SARAH NEWCOMB  
MCCLENDON

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in salute of Texas-born reporter Sarah Newcomb McClendon and her pioneering efforts as a member of the Washington, DC press corps.

Ms. McClendon was born in Tyler, Texas. She has been a reporter for nearly 70 years and has covered eleven Presidents since 1994. She has covered the White House with wit and directiveness for more than fifty years. Like a true Texas woman, she has earned respect from many for her toughness that is always tempered with a touch of charm.

Prior to moving to Washington, Ms. McClendon received her journalism degree from the University of Missouri in 1931. She worked for the Courier-Times and Tyler Morning Telegraph in Tyler, Texas. She also was a reporter for the Texas newspaper the Beaumont Enterprise. In 1944 she became a National Correspondent for the Philadelphia Daily News. In 1946 she made her pilgrimage to Washington, DC, where she founded the McClendon News Service which she still runs today.

Her awards, which read like a who's who in journalism, include the Woman of Achievement Award for Texas Press Women, the National Federation of Women Award, Public Relations award from the American Legion and the first recipient of the Presidential Award for Journalism in Washington.

Sarah McClendon has helped pave the way for many women journalists and writers. In a field where women are often not heard, she has not relied on good manners to do her job. Instead, she has made people listen and answer her tough questions often forcing many Presidents to do double takes.

Her never-give-up interviewing style has made her both loved and feared. However, at the end of the day, she is the one who has asked the questions her readers care about most.

Mr. Speaker, Sarah McClendon has covered Washington with persistence and good humor. Her ability as a reporter has demonstrated that she truly has printers ink coursing through her veins.

TRIBUTE TO NEW INDUCTEES TO  
MINNESOTA AVIATION HALL OF  
FAME

**HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to two pioneers in general aviation in the State of Minnesota: Francis Einarson of International Falls and Rudy Billberg of Roseau. These two gentlemen will be inducted into the Minnesota Aviation Hall of Fame on Saturday, April 17, 1999.

Francis Einarson serves as an operator of the International Falls Airport, and he has long been a leader in aviation in Northern Minnesota. His induction to the Aviation Hall of Fame is an honor that it richly deserved—if not overdue. Francis' brother Jim taught him to fly in 1948, and the two men began operating the airport in International Falls the same year. Over the years, Francis Einarson took tourists for scenic rides, taught students how to fly, provided air ambulance service and conducted search and rescue missions. Francis also oversaw several expansions of the International Falls Airport, which today acts as a gateway to Northern Minnesota communities and attractions like Voyageurs National Park.

Rudy Billberg is also part of aviation history in Minnesota. In the early days of aviation, Rudy made his start by barnstorming to festivals in Duluth and the Iron Range and putting on acrobatic shows. He provided valuable service to the United States by training flyers in Duluth and flying troops and supplies during World War II. He also trained junior college students in flying through the Civilian Pilot Training program and was appointed one of Minnesota's first flight examiners.

These men were adventures when aviation was a new mode of transportation, and they made a valuable contribution to the development of the aviation field. I know my colleagues join me in congratulating Francis Einarson and Rudy Billberg on their induction into the Minnesota Aviation Hall of Fame.

INTRODUCTION OF TRAFFIC STOPS  
STATISTICS ACT OF 1999

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Traffic Stops Statistics Act of 1999 along with 21 additional cosponsors. Identical legislation is being introduced today in the other body by Senators LAUTENBERG, FEINGOLD, and KENNEDY.

Our bill would require the Justice Department to conduct a study of racial profiling by acquiring data from law enforcement agencies regarding the characteristics of persons stopped for alleged traffic violations and the rationale for subsequent searches. The legislation is similar to legislation I introduced last Congress (H.R. 118) which was approved by the Judiciary Committee on a bipartisan basis and passed the House by voice vote on March 24, 1998.

We have all heard stories of African and Hispanic Americans—including many well known actors, athletes, law enforcement officers, and legislators—who have been stopped for the traffic infraction known as “Driving While Black” or “Driving While Brown.” Our legislation will allow us to ascertain the extent such profiling is occurring on a nationwide basis, help increase police awareness of the problem, and determine if any broader response is warranted.

The limited data available indicates that the problem of racial profiling in traffic stops is serious. For example, a recent study by the Orlando Sentinel found that 70% of the persons stopped on I-95 were African-American, even though they only made up less than 10% of the driver population. A court ordered study in Maryland found that more than 70% of drivers stopped on I-95 were African American though they made up only 17.5% of drivers, while another study conducted in conjunction with a New Jersey civil rights lawsuit found that minorities were nearly five times as likely as non-minorities to be stopped for traffic violations along that state's turnpike.

Further evidence of racial profiling by law enforcement was evident in the case of *State v. Soto*, in which Superior Court judge, Robert E. Francis ruled that troopers were engaging in racial profiling on the southernmost segment of the New Jersey Turnpike. This in turn raises troubling questions regarding the extent to which law enforcement officials may be unfairly targeting Hispanic and Asian Americans under the guise of immigration enforcement.

If our citizens are to trust our justice system it is imperative that all forms of discrimination be eliminated from law enforcement. The Traffic Stops Statistics Act of 1999 will help give Congress the tools to assess and understand a dangerous form of such discrimination—racial profiling in traffic stops.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR POLICE OFFICER SAFETY ACT OF 1999

**HON. JAMES E. ROGAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the National Assistance for Police Officer Safety Act. This legislation is a simple, straightforward measure that will give qualified active duty law enforcement personnel carrying proper identification the ability to carry their firearms outside of their local jurisdiction, including across State lines. I am pleased to announce that my friend and colleague Congressman STEVEN ROTHMAN joins me in authoring this bill.

The law enforcement community has long sought a unified federal law to resolve the inconsistent and fickle ‘right to carry laws’ that pervade State statutes. This bill will give active law enforcement officers the ability to protect themselves and their families from retaliations by criminal stalkers seeking to harm them. Further, this bill increases public safety by adding more armed, qualified peace officers to our streets.

Recently, police officers from my own district traveled to Washington to participate in ceremonies honoring fallen law enforcement

officers. During their visit they expressed great concern at being forced to be unarmed on public streets without protection against unsuspected retaliation. This measure will give all police officers—all of us—an added measure of protection.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION ACT OF 1999

**HON. RAY LAHOOD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the anniversary of former President Abraham Lincoln's death to celebrate his life. Today, I am introducing the Abraham Lincoln bicentennial Commission Act of 1999. This bill will establish a commission, the purpose of which would be to make recommendations to Congress for a national program to honor former President Abraham Lincoln in the year 2009, the bicentennial celebration of his birth.

Abraham Lincoln has gone down in history as one of our country's greatest Presidents. As our sixteenth President, Abraham Lincoln served the country during a most precarious era. While most of the country looked to divide, President Lincoln fought for unity and eventually saved the Union. With the belief that all men were created equal, President Lincoln led the charge to free all slaves in America. Without the determination and vision of President Lincoln, the country, as we know it, may not exist today.

President Lincoln also serves as a national symbol of the “American Dream.” Born of humble roots in Hardin County, Kentucky on February 12, 1809, Abraham Lincoln rose to the Presidency though a legacy of honesty, integrity, intelligence and commitment to the United States of America.

In 1909, America celebrated the centennial of President Lincoln's birth in a manner deserving of his accomplishments. Congress approved placing the image of President Lincoln on a first-class stamp for the first time, made President Lincoln's birth a national holiday, and passed legislation leading to the construction of the Lincoln Memorial here in Washington, D.C. Further, President Roosevelt approved placing the image of President Lincoln on the penny.

As in 1909, the Congress should again honor President Lincoln in 2009, by establishing the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission. Through this Commission, Congress will be able to demonstrate its appreciation for Abraham Lincoln's accomplishments and ultimate sacrifice for our country. This Commission will identify and recommend to Congress appropriate actions to carry out this mission and, through the recommendations of this Commission and subsequent acts of Congress, the American people will benefit by learning about the life of President Lincoln.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of President Lincoln by supporting the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Act of 1999.

#### TAXES AND HOME OWNERSHIP

**HON. PHIL ENGLISH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in favor of the preservation and extension of a very important benefit to all tax-paying Americans.

We all know the significance of today, April 15th. And as lamentable as today is for every hard-working American who strives to save income for themselves and their families, there is one component of the federal tax code every citizen should be granted. I am speaking about the tax deduction for interest paid on debt secured by the purchase of a home.

Owning a home, Mr. Speaker, has to be, without doubt, the one goal every American shares. And far be it for the federal government to stand in the way of that goal. What better way could the federal government assist with this dream than by granting every American a tax deduction on interest paid on a home mortgage.

The benefits of home ownership are many. Most importantly, home ownership strengthens neighborhoods and families. It strengthens neighborhoods in that those who live in a home will also invest in the area in which they live, thereby supporting vibrant and prosperous communities. And owning a home financially strengthens families, especially for parents who work hard to provide for their children.

Homes, Mr. Speaker, for families all across this land that live in one and hope to own one, are the greatest institutions our nation can build. That is why I rise today in strong support of, and encourage all members of this body to support, a resolution my colleague, Representative ROUKEMA, will introduce on the extension to every American of a tax deduction for interest paid on debt secured by a first or second home.

Home ownership is the backbone of our great nation and must remain a dream within the grasp of every American.

#### TRIBUTE TO FREEHOLDER THERESA BROWN ON BEING NAMED “FREEHOLDER OF THE YEAR” BY THE NEW JERSEY CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

**HON. JIM SAXTON**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, on April 22, 1999, the New Jersey Conference of Mayors will bestow to Theresa D. Brown, Esq. the Freeholder of the Year Award for her dedicated service to Burlington County and the State of New Jersey. Having worked closely on several issues with Ms. Brown, I believe that the Conference of Mayors made an outstanding selection.

Ms. Brown is the daughter of retired Air Force M/SGT Walter and Julie Brown. As a military dependent, Ms. Brown grew up in exotic locales including France, the Philippines, Hawaii, and several other places within the United States.



Upon graduating from Princeton University, Ms. Brown became a certified K-12 teacher in Social Studies, English, and French at the intermediate and high school levels in the East Windsor regional School District in Hightstown, New Jersey. From there, Ms. Brown worked with the New Jersey Education Association lobbying before the New Jersey Legislature and the United States Congress for the state's largest teacher's union. Additionally, Ms. Brown worked as the Planning Manager for Mercer County Legal Services in Trenton.

Seeking more challenges, Ms. Brown graduated from Seton Hall Law School and worked as a law clerk for the Honorable Michael Patrick King, P.J.A.D., Superior Court of New Jersey, Appellate Division of Westmont, New Jersey. Theresa moved on to become an associate with the Trenton firm of Picco, Mack, Herbert, Kennedy, Jaffe, and Yoskin and then an Assistant City Attorney for the City of Camden. Ms. Brown served as an Assistant Director of litigation for the New Jersey Department of the Public Advocate where she litigated automobile insurance rate-making cases before the Office of Administrative Law and the Appellate Division. Ms. Brown moved on to become a partner in the Camden firm of Derden and Brown and later served as an attorney with the New Jersey Protection and Advocacy, Inc. in Trenton where she represented persons with disabilities. Currently, Ms. Brown practices in the area of family law.

On January 1, 1997, Ms. Brown her 3-year term on the Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders. With her election, she became the first African-American woman elected to hold that position in Burlington County. Among the many duties she performs, Freeholder Brown oversees the operations of Burlington County College, the Special Services School, and the Institute of Technology as well as Culture and Heritage, the county Library and the Consumer Affairs office.

Freeholder Brown's public service does not end with her duties on the Board of Freeholders. Freeholder Brown volunteers her time to civic organizations and is President of the Girl Scouts of the South Jersey Pines, Inc. which serves girls in Atlantic, Burlington, Cape May, Cumberland, and Gloucester Counties. Freeholder Brown is also a member of Girl Scouts of the U.S.A.'s Special Committee on Fund Development. Additionally, Freeholder Brown is a member of the Board of Directors for the Burlington County Chapter of the American Red Cross and also serves on the Burlington County Board of Social Services.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sincere privilege to honor a dedicated public servant and this year's recipient of the New Jersey Conference of mayors' 1999 Freeholder of the Year Award, Freeholder Theresa D. Brown. A finer selection could not have been made.

#### MERGER BETWEEN AMERITECH AND SBC COMMUNICATION

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, there are a number of developments regarding the proposed merger of Ameritech and SBC Communication that merit our attention, specifically re-

cent actions taken by the Federal Communication Commission. While I have not taken a position on the merger and do not plan to do so at this time, I find the process the FCC is proposing to be arbitrary and inconsistent decisionmaking.

The FCC has proposed to add an additional 90-day process that includes staff discussions, another Commission en banc hearing and another round of public comment to help in reviewing this merger. I find this unprecedented additional process quite worrisome since the Commission has already held a public proceeding which took nine months and generated 12,000 pages of written submissions from over 50 parties. It is hard to believe that the Commission might need more information to determine what sort of conditions it should impose on these companies. I am also puzzled by the fact that Chairman Kennard has not seen fit to use such a process with any other mergers he has considered recently in the communications industry.

Mr. Speaker, this merger was announced 11 months ago. During this time, the Department of Justice reviewed the proposal extensively and just ruled on April 8, that it is not anti-competitive—however, the FCC continues to drag its feet in deciding on this matter. I firmly believe that the FCC has a duty to uphold in the strongest possible terms the “public interest” when looking at a merger. However, I do not believe that it gives them cover to devise a unique, convoluted process which applies a different standard and much stricter burden of proof than what was acceptable for similar cases.

At this time, Ameritech and SBC still remain in the regulatory swamp which unfairly disadvantages the competitive positions of both companies. I strongly encourage the FCC to consider the Ameritech-SBC merger with the same speed, efficiency and fairness that it has considered other recent mergers in the telecommunications industry. For the FCC to do otherwise is something we should all find intolerable.

#### AIRSPACE REDESIGN ENHANCEMENT ACT

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Airspace Redesign Enhancement Act. This bill would require the Federal Aviation Administration to speed up the process of redesigning the airspace over the New Jersey and New York Metropolitan area.

For over a decade, residents in my district and countless other areas of New Jersey and New York have been plagued by the problem of aircraft noise. According to the FAA, redesign of the airspace will solve many of the region's air noise problems.

The airspace over our region—Newark, Kennedy, and LaGuardia airports, along with a host of smaller municipal and regional airports—has made this area the busiest, most congested and most complex in the Nation. These three major airports have over 1 million flight arrivals and departures a year. Further, the high volume of flights is further com-

plicated by the fact that these three airports share airspace. When Newark changes departure and arrival patterns, adjustments must be made at Kennedy and LaGuardia airports as well.

Last July, the FAA announced at Newark Airport that it would begin the process of redesigning the airspace over the New Jersey and New York Metropolitan Region. This was to be the first area in the country addressed by the FAA, and the results could be applied to other regions during future airspace redesign processes.

So why the delays? Since last July, no real action has been taken. The 5-year timetable has fallen behind, and residents in my district face a long wait before any potential relief from constant aircraft noise.

Mr. Speaker, 5 years is too long. These families should not be forced to wait 5 years before these planes stop flying, low and loud, over their homes and yards. I have heard too many stories from too many families who cannot have conversations in their homes when these planes fly overhead.

Enough is enough. The Airspace Redesign Enhancement Act would give the FAA 2 years to complete the airspace redesign process, and would give them the money they need to do so. By speeding up the process of redesigning the airspace over the New Jersey and New York Metropolitan region, other areas of the country will have their airspace redesigned much quicker as well. New Jersey is not the only region to suffer from aircraft noise. This bill can help residents near Chicago's O'Hare Airport, Reagan National Airport, Los Angeles International Airport, Denver International Airport, and other airports across the country.

The FAA has offered too many excuses for not getting this job done. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Airspace Redesign Enhancement Act so that this process will not stretch out far into the 21st Century.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE TRUTH IN EMPLOYMENT ACT OF 1999

**HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Truth in Employment Act of 1999. This important legislation addresses the abusive union tactic commonly called “salting.” “Salting” is an economic weapon unions use to damage and even run employers out of business.

“Salting” abuse is the placing of trained professional organizers and agents in a non-union facility to harass or disrupt company operations, apply economic pressure, increase operating and legal costs, and ultimately put the company out of business. The object of the union agents are accomplished through filing, among other charges, unfair labor practice charges with the National Labor Relations Board. As brought out during the five hearings the Workforce Committee held on this issue in the 104th and 105th Congresses, “salting” is not merely an organizing tool, but has become an instrument of economic destruction aimed at non-union companies that has nothing to do with legitimate union organizing.

As a former “salt” from Vermont testified last year before the Employer-Employee Relations Subcommittee:



"[Salting] has become a method to stifle competition in the marketplace, steal away employees, and to inflict financial harm on the competition. Salting has been practiced in Vermont for over six years, yet not a single group of open shop electrical workers have petitioned the local union for the right to collectively bargain with their employers. In fact, as salting techniques become more openly hostile . . . most workers view these activities as a threat to their ability to work. In a country where free enterprise and independence is so highly valued. I find these activities nothing more than legalized extortion."

There can be no disputing what these "salts" are trying to do. As a former NLRB field attorney testified before the subcommittee, from his experience, "salts have no intention of organizing a company by convincing the co-workers that unions are a good thing for them. Instead, once a salt enters the workplace, that individual engages in a pattern of conduct to disrupt the workplace; to gather information about the employer to feed to the union; to disrupt projects; and ultimately to file charges with the National Labor Relations Board."

Another witness quoted directly from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers' organizing manual, which states that the goal of the union salt is to "threaten or actually apply the economic pressure necessary to cause the employer to raise his prices, scale back his business activities, leave the union's jurisdiction, go out of business and so on."

Hiding behind the shield of the National Labor Relations Act, unions "salt" employers by sending agents into non-union workplaces under the guise of seeking employment. These "salts" often try to harm their employers or deliberately increase costs through various actions, including sabotage and frivolous discrimination complaints with the NLRB. If an employer refuses to hire the "salt," the union files unfair labor practice charges. Alternatively, if the "salts" are hired by the employer, they often attempt to persuade bona fide employees of the company to sign cards supporting the union. The union agents also often look for other reasons to file unfair labor practice charges, solely to impose undue legal costs on the employer.

The stark reality is that "salting" puts companies out of business and destroys jobs. Clearly, the drafters of the 1935 National Labor Relations Act did not intend this result. The Act was not intended as a device to circumvent the will of employees, to strangle businesses into submission to further a union's objectives, or to put non-union employers out of business." One construction company testified before the subcommittee that it had to spend more than \$600,000 in legal fees from one salting campaign, with the average cost per charge of more than \$8,500. Beyond legal fees, one employer testified, "it would be impossible to put a dollar amount on the pain and suffering caused by the stress of the situation to a small company like ours who does not have the funds to fight these charges."

Thus, under current law, an employer must choose between two unpleasant options: either hire a union "salt" who is there to disrupt the workplace and file frivolous charges resulting in costly litigation, or deny the "salt" employment and risk being sued for discrimination under the NLRA.

The Truth in Employment Act of 1999 would protect the employer by making it clear that an employer is not required to hire any person who is not a "bona fide" employee applicant. The bill states that someone is not a "bona fide" applicant is such person "seeks or sought employment with the employer with the primary purpose of furthering other employment or agency status." Simply put, if someone wants a job, but at least 50 percent of their intent is not to work for the employer, then they should not get the job and the employer has not committed an unfair labor practice if they refuse to hire the person.

As drafted, this legislation is a very narrow bill simply removing from the protection of Section 8(a) of the NLRA a person who seeks a job without at least 50 percent motivation to work for the employer. At the same time, the legislation recognizes the legitimate role for organized labor, and it would not interfere with legitimate union activities. The Act contains a proviso, which, by the way, passed the House 398 to 0 last March during consideration of H.R. 3246, the Fairness for Small Business and Employees Act, making clear that the bill does not affect the rights and responsibilities available under the NLRA to anyone, provided they are a bona fide employee applicant. Employees and bona fide applicants will continue to enjoy their right to organize or engage in other concerted activities under the NLRA, and, employers will still be prohibited from discriminating against employees on the basis of union membership or union activism.

It was alleged last Congress by some throughout the course of the many hearings on "salting" and during floor debate last March that this legislation overturns the Supreme Court's decision in *NLRB v. Town & Country Electric, Inc.* However, in fact, the Act reinforces the narrow holding of *Town & Country*. The Court held only that paid union organizers can fall within the literal statutory definition of "employee" contained in Section 2(3) of the NLRA. The Court did not address any other legal issues, but the effect of the decision is to uphold policies of the NLRB which subject employers to unwarranted union harassment and frivolous complaints.

The Act does not change the definition of "employee" or "employee applicant" under the NLRA, it simply would change the Board's enforcement of Section 8 "salting" cases by declaring that employers may refuse to hire individuals who are not at least half motivated to work for the employer. So long as even a paid union organizer is at least 50 percent motivated to work for the employer, he or she cannot be refused a job pursuant to the Act.

This bill establishes a test which does not seek to overrule *Town & Country* and does not infringe upon the legitimate rights of bona fide employees and employee applicants to organize on behalf of unions in the workplace. Indeed, the Supreme Court's holding that an individual can be the servant of two masters at the same time is similarly left untouched. In fact, it is the acknowledgment that an applicant may in fact be split in motivation between an employer and a union that gives rise to the need for examining an applicant's motivation—a "primary purpose" test that the NLRB general counsel and courts will apply.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, forcing employers to hire union business agents or employees, who are primarily intent on disrupting or even destroying employers' businesses, does not

serve the interests of bona fide employees under the NLRA and hurts the competitiveness of small businesses. This bill does not prohibit organizers from getting jobs, and it is completely consistent with the policies of the NLRA. All the legislation does is give the employer some comfort that it is hiring someone who really wants to work for the employer. The Truth in Employment Act of 1999 returns a sense of balance to the NLRA that is being undermined by the Board's current policies. I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WAR

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of the Veterans of Foreign War (VFW).

The VFW traces its roots back to 1899 when Veterans of the Spanish-American War (1898) and the Philippine Insurrection (1899–1902) founded local organizations to secure rights and benefits for their service. A group of veterans founded the American Veterans of Foreign Service in Columbus, Ohio. Similar groups were later formed in Denver, Colorado and throughout Pennsylvania.

In 1913, the Veterans of the Foreign War came into existence as a result of the merger of these three separate foreign service organizations which held the same ideals and similar membership requirements. The mission of the VFW is to support and further the interests of United States veterans. Membership in the VFW is available to all US citizens, honorably discharged from the armed forces, who have earned an overseas campaign medal.

Currently, the VFW has a membership of 2.1 million. In addition to assisting veterans with numerous issues the organization is involved with national programs such as the Americanism Program. This program provides materials and information, sponsors events and promotes activities which are designed to stimulate interest in American's history and tradition, institutions of civic responsibility and patriotism.

A key element of VFW involvement is community service. The organization sponsors programs benefitting education, the environment, health services, civic pride, and community betterment. VFW is also the sponsor of Voice of Democracy, a national audio essay competition which annually provides more the \$2.7 million in college scholarships to high school students across the nation. In addition, members work with a variety of youth organizations including Junior and Special Olympics and the Boy Scouts of America. The organization is also active in drug awareness and missing children efforts.

The VFW raises money for needy veterans and their families through the Buddy Poppy program. More than 17 million Poppies are sold each year, generating funds for the national veterans service program, relief for local veterans and their families and the VFW National Home.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring the VFW's 100th anniversary and its members who have bravely risked their lives to serve the United States.

## TRIBUTE TO HARRY BAKER

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Harry Baker on the occasion of his retirement from the Madera County Board of Supervisors. Harry attended his last board meeting on December 15, 1998, after 12 years of dedicated service.

Harry Baker was born in Eastern Madera County over 70 years ago. As a veteran of World War II, Harry was a first hand witness to the most turbulent time in the history of the twentieth century. Today Harry is a life member and Past Post Commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 8753 and a life member of the American Legion. Thanks to the GI Bill, Harry was able to go to college and finish his education, he is a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley.

Harry has been successful not only in politics, but also in business. In addition to serving as President and Chairman of the board of Sierra Tel Tronics, he also serves as President and Chairman of the Board of Sierra Telephone, Sierra Cellular, Sierra Tel Logic, Sierra Tel Internet, Sierra Telephone Long Distance, Sierra Tel Tronics Business Center, Sierra Tel Tronics Business Systems, El Dorado Cellular, and ST Air Services. Harry has operated Sierra Telephone, one of the area's largest employers, for over 48 years. Harry has taken the company through remarkable growth, increasing in size from 200 customers and 4 employees, to 20,000 customers and 230 employees. Harry was a founding member of the Western Rural Telephone Association and served as its president in 1967, he's been on the Board of Directors for 14 years.

Despite a busy work schedule, Harry makes time for many worthwhile community activities. He's a Life Member of the Madera County Historical Society and was appointed to the Madera District Fair Board by former Governor George Deukmejian. Harry is a Charter Member of the Gateway Yosemite Elks Lodge, and a member of the Sierra Oakhurst Lions Club. Harry is also an example to youth, he is a Cub Scout and Boy Scout Troop Leader as well as a 4-H Leader.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Harry Baker, on the occasion of his retirement from the Madera County Board of Supervisors. Supervisor Baker has been a devoted public servant during his 12 years of service. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in wishing Harry Baker many years of continued success.

REGARDING THE PASSING OF MS.  
SONYA BEMPORAD OF DALLAS**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Prime Minister Winston Churchill once said "There is no finer investment for any community than putting milk into babies."

I believe that Ms. Sonya Bemporad of Dallas lived by these words and committed her time, energy and soul to investing in children.

One of the most notable advocates of children and leaders of child care policy, Ms. Bemporad died Saturday, March 20, 1999. She was 64 years old.

She is known throughout Texas, and our Nation as the leading and chief theoretician with the child care group here in Dallas. The child care group is an innovative non-profit organization that operates day-care centers, manages public subsidies for child care in north Texas, conducts training for child-care workers and provides other services. She was the group's senior vice president at the time of her death.

While Congress is still debating on proposals to improve the safety, quality and delivery of child care, Ms. Bemporad worked during her entire life to find new ways to care for children. She was on the cutting-edge with her design of the child-care group's "relationship-centered child care" approach. This approach advocated a small, family-like environment and interaction with one "constant caregiver."

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Bemporad's methods are so widely accepted and acknowledged that First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton visited one of the day care centers in Dallas that the group operates.

On February 20, 1998, the First Lady toured the Martin Luther King, Jr. Child Development Center with me, witnessing first hand, Ms. Bemporad's model. Ms. Bemporad's model on child-care is so effective that the First Lady showcased it nationwide as she worked with the President to travel throughout the country and across the world to visit child-care facilities that work for children and their parents.

Mr. Speaker, the year before, Ms. Bemporad's success was featured on ABC's *World News Tonight with Peter Jennings* as a solution to the Nation's child-care crisis. In addition, the child-care group founded the Sonya Bemporad chair for relationship-centered child care. A position she had stewardship over until her passing.

These accolades are testimonials to her commitment to children. She deserves that recognition and more, Mr. Speaker. Many children are better cared for, receive more attention and are surrounded by providers who have an interest in their long-term well-being. Due to her efforts, many children in an "relationship-centered child care environment" usually score higher on reading and language tests in public schools than their peers.

Countless children who will produce and achieve in classrooms throughout the city of Dallas, the State of Texas, and our Nation have Ms. Bemporad to thank. She could not develop such an approach if she did not possess the time and desire to know children and what makes them function. This innate sense of Ms. Bemporad's is what helps make children successful and cared for. She influenced her peers to subscribe to this method, moving away from simply studying and analyzing children. She influenced them to accommodate and fashion learning environments to children and their most pressing needs.

However, Mr. Speaker, this is a part of a long career in attending and addressing to the needs of children. Over the last 25 years, she lent her talents and heart to other child-care organizations. The Dallas county child welfare and the Dallas County Mental Health and Mental Retardation Agencies all benefited from her sage advice, unlimited compassion and concern for children. In addition, she was

also a member of the American Association of Psychiatric Services for Children and the city of Dallas Health and Human Services Commission.

Mr. Speaker, I join the parents and children of the 30th Congressional District in paying tribute to Ms. Sonya Bemporad. Like trees, children cannot grow without a seed. Ms. Bemporad was indeed a seed that allowed many children to grow and reach new heights.

IN HONOR OF MONTACHUSETT  
GIRL SCOUT COUNCIL GOLD  
AWARD RECIPIENTS**HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the accomplishments of thirteen outstanding young women of my District who have been selected as recipients of the Girl Scout Gold Award. These thirteen recipients from the Montachusett Girl Scout Council in Worcester, Massachusetts are: Kendra Beauvais, Diana Brink, Sarah Broders, Donnielle Crossman, Michelle Curtis, Bridget Donahue, Laura Gallant, Asavari Kamekar, Mary-Elizabeth Morgan, Jennifer Mummethney, Sarah Potty, and Bridget Strom.

I am pleased to be able to acknowledge their accomplishments in service to their community.

IN HONOR OF THE CLEVELAND  
SLOVAK DRAMATIC CLUB**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Cleveland Slovak Dramatic Club. The Cleveland Slovak Dramatic Club is a vital part of the Cleveland area as it encourages Slovak youth to be loyal Americans and to be active and proud of their Slovak heritage.

Throughout its 50 years of existence, The Cleveland Slovak Dramatic Club (C.S.D.C.) has been involved in many activities to help the Slovak community in the Cleveland area. During the first 10 years of the C.S.D.C., it actively sponsored various Slovak cultural activities such as live stage plays which were performed throughout the Cleveland area. Profits from these cultural events went to aid Slovak refugees who had escaped persecution in Slovakia and were dispersed throughout Europe. The events raised over \$20,000 which was donated from the club to aid refugees.

In addition to C.S.D.C.'s cultural plays, the club also provided live cultural programs on Christmas and Easter holidays on Cleveland's Slovak radio.

C.S.D.C. members have become very active in all Slovak movements and activities in various Slovak Clubs, fraternal and social organizations such as, Slovak League of America, Slovak World Congress, First Slovak Catholic Union, and many others. It is through their help and activity in these organizations, that Slovak heritage, culture and Slovak fraternalism have prospered and grown for many years.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring the Cleveland Slovak Dramatic Club for their years of service to the Slovak community of the Cleveland area.

HONORS LISETTE BERNIER-McGOWAN FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to honor the fine work and outstanding public service of Lisette Bernier-McGowan. Lisette is well deserving of our commendation after thirty years of service to the New Haven public school system and community.

Lisette was raised and educated in Puerto Rico, and upon her arrival in Connecticut recognized the need for greater bilingual education in our schools. She earned two Masters Degrees at Southern Connecticut State University, in Modern Foreign Languages and Elementary Bilingual Education, and set out to build a system of increased diversity within the public school curriculum and community. For more than two decades she has given her time and expertise for the good of New Haven young people.

Her knowledge in bilingual and english as a second language programs is highly regarded by other leaders in this field. She has served on the Commissioner's Task Force on Bilingual Education, the Superintendent's Task Force for Excellence in Education, the Yale Study Groups on Bilingual Education and Cultural Bias.

Most recently she has served as Director of two innovative education programs. The Bilingual Science Project is a comprehensive three-year teacher training program on effective strategies for the integration of science and language acquisition. The BRIDGE Project is a reform effort in three New Haven elementary schools in New Haven designed to provide rigorous literacy development. While leading these efforts, she concurrently served as Chair of the New Haven Public Schools Task Force on Bilingual Education. Her commitment to this issue has lead to real progress in developing and implementing sound bilingual education policy and curriculum.

Several local organizations have honored her consistent leadership in the community. Among her achievements, Lisette has been awarded the Bilingual Director of the Year, the Connecticut Latinas in Leadership Award, LULAC Award for Leadership in Education, and the YMCA Women in Leadership award. We are not the first to recognize Lisette's contribution, but I am proud to take this opportunity to join others in our community to honor this talented woman.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to rise today and join with family, friends, and the City of New Haven to pay tribute to Lisette Bernier-McGowan for outstanding service to our community. She has truly left a positive mark on New Haven that will benefit our schools and our young people for years to come. Educator, leader, and friend, Lisette's exceptional commitment and dedication have made her a model to which we can all aspire.

IN HONOR OF MR. JOSEPH CUNDARI FOR HIS DEDICATION TO HARRISON AND TO HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable accomplishments of Mr. Joseph Cundari for his contributions to Harrison and Hudson County Community College.

Through his vast knowledge of engineering and his devotion to the community in which he was raised, Mr. Cundari has dedicated his life to the betterment of Harrison, NJ. From serving as Vice President of the West Hudson Hospital Association, 1958-1962, to serving as Vice President of the Harrison Board of Education, 1991-1996, Mr. Cundari consistently gave his time, energy, and resources in order to improve his surroundings.

Using his degree in civil engineering from Manhattan College, Mr. Cundari began his long career of serving his country and his community by enlisting in the United States Army. As Master Sergeant and Chief of Engineer Operations Section of the 341st Engineer Regiment, Mr. Cundari was instrumental in the construction of the Alaska Military Highway and in the reconstruction of railroad bridges devastated by WWII in France, Belgium, and Germany.

After leaving the military, Mr. Cundari returned to Harrison and was named Town Engineer by the New Jersey Engineering Department and Department of Construction Inspection. From March 1946 through the present, Mr. Cundari prepared plans and specifications for all public works projects involving the construction of new water mains, sanitary and storm sewers, and street improvements.

In addition to his work to improve the infrastructure of Harrison, Mr. Cundari was a leader on the issue of safety. He was proactive in formulating the police, fire alarm, and traffic signals for the town of Harrison.

Since 1990, Mr. Cundari has served on the Hudson County Community College Board of Trustees. Under his leadership as Chair of the Facilities Committee, the college initiated plans for campus development in Journal Square—an integral area in my district. His expertise and work for the college have been so essential to the growth of the college that he was named the HCCC's first trustee emeritus by the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Mr. Cundari's efforts exemplify leadership and dedication to both the town of Harrison and Hudson County Community College. For these tremendous contributions to New Jersey and his example as a public servant, I am very happy to honor Mr. Cundari for his achievements. I salute and congratulate him on his extraordinary accomplishments.

**HOMEOWNERSHIP—LIVING THE AMERICAN DREAM**

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, and colleagues, I rise today in support of homeownership and

the mortgage interest tax deduction that makes it possible for millions of American families participate in the American Dream.

Today, when Americans are paying taxes and we debate changing the tax code, we need to be vigilant to protect the part of the code that helps millions to improve their lives and secure their future.

Two-thirds of all American families own their own homes—a rate that would be impossible without the mortgage interest deduction.

Homeownership is essential to the strength and vitality of America, providing a foundation of family security, stability and prosperity. Our communities are strengthened because of the pride of ownership and the vested interest homeowners have in their neighborhoods.

So today, let us vow to protect the mortgage interest tax deduction, and help to guarantee a strong future for American families and communities.

**THE INTRODUCTION OF THE WORKING AMERICANS WAGE RESTORATION ACT**

**HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, this week, most Americans will pay their federal income tax. In total, individuals will spend about 1.7 billion hours to try to comply with the tax code. Businesses will spend 3.4 billion hours. That is equivalent to a "staff" of 3 million people working full-time, year-round, just on taxes. For Washington State residents, the average total tax burden will rise from \$10,307 in 1997 to \$10,634, making Washington the state with the tenth highest per capita tax burden.

Our colleague in the Senate, Senator JOHN ASHCROFT, and I believe this is too much, that working Americans know better how to spend their money than the Government does. So I am pleased today, with Senator ASHCROFT to introduce the Working Americans Wage Restoration Act.

The bill will eliminate the double taxation on the employee's share of the Social Security payroll tax. It would not affect the Social Security Trust Fund in any way.

Over the last 50 years, the Social Security employer-employee payroll tax has grown from 2% to 15%. As a result, almost three-quarters of all families now pay more in total Social Security payroll taxes than they pay in income taxes. These payroll taxes are inherently unfair because workers are taxed twice on the same income. Americans are taxed first as a portion of their gross income for federal income tax purposes and a second time for their contribution to the Social Security Trust Fund.

By allowing workers to deduct their share of Social Security contributions from their federal taxes, the Working Americans Wage Restoration Act will eliminate this double taxation and allow the workers who generated the economic growth to keep more of the money they earn.

Currently, businesses and employers are permitted to deduct their share of the payroll tax as a business expense, but workers are not. Individuals should have this same opportunity. My legislation would provide the same

benefit to individuals that businesses already enjoy.

I urge my colleagues to support the Working Americans Wage Restoration Act.

IN HONOR OF PATRICK SWEENEY

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Patrick Sweeney for 35 years of public service.

Mr. Sweeney began his career as a legislator in 1967 in the Ohio House of Representatives. In 1974 he was elected Assistant Majority Leader. Four years later he was elected as chair of the Education Section and as Vice Chairman of the House Finance and Appropriations Committee. In 1984, Mr. Sweeney was named Majority Whip. He later served as Minority Leader of the Ohio House where he left in 1996 to serve as State Senator of the 23rd District. Mr. Sweeney currently serves as an advisor and co-professor at Cleveland State University.

Mr. Sweeney achieved many accomplishments for the Cleveland area while in office. He brought millions of state dollars home for various projects, including the renovation of Playhouse Square and Cleveland State University's 17-18th Street Project, which included a new law library and a new business school building. Mr. Sweeney has also been supportive of the arts and theaters in the downtown area.

Patrick has been a dear friend, colleague and mentor for many years. I have tremendous respect for him as a legislator. I was very pleased that he succeeded me as State Senator of the 23rd District when I was elected to Congress. It gives me great pleasure to publicly recognize the achievements of Mr. Sweeney.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring Patrick Sweeney for his 35 years of Public Service. He will be saluted for his achievements at a dinner by the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party.

IN HONOR OF TERENCE FREITAS

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Terence Freitas. Terence was kidnapped in Colombia on February 25th, and slain while working on behalf of the rights of indigenous people. As a humanitarian and environmentalist, he leaves behind a legacy of activism and passion that inspires us all.

Terence graduated from the University of California at Santa Cruz in 1997 with a dual degree in biology and environmental studies. He was a conservation biologist and policy analyst, with extensive field experience in temperate and tropical rainforests. While at the University of California at Santa Cruz, Terence was an active member of the community. He was involved in numerous campus activities

and helped to redesign the Crown College core course. Crown College is naming its college service award after him. In addition, an endowment has been established in his name to support the research of environmental studies at UCSC.

Terence also worked as an environmental consultant, researching American Indian Law and U.S. environmental policy. He was a long-time advocate for indigenous people and worked with Native American tribes while he was a student. His passions for working with marginalized cultures lead him in 1997, to the U'wa people in Colombia where he and two companions were on a mission to preserve the culture of the U'wa Indians.

The U'wa Tribe is fighting a battle to defend their rights and traditional territory. Ever dedicated to the fight for indigenous rights, Terence willingly put aside concern for his own safety and went to an area with one of the highest rates of documented human rights abuses, where violence, kidnappings and executions are part of everyday life. No one outside Colombia did more for the U'wa people than did Terence.

Terence helped to establish the U'wa Defense Working Group and lived life passionately. His fight will be continued by fellow activists, and Terence will be missed by all of those whose lives he touched. The loss of his young, vibrant life, is a tragedy for the whole world. The global humanitarian effort has suffered greatly with the passing of Terence Freitas.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM PEACE TAX FUND BILL

**HON. JOHN LEWIS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, one of the fundamental liberties of our country is freedom of religion. The right to exercise our religious beliefs free of government coercion. The Federal Government must not force a citizen to act against his or her religious beliefs.

Because of their strong religious convictions, some Americans do not pay their taxes. They do not pay their taxes because their religion forbids them from supporting war. Seventeen cents out of every tax dollar received by the Federal Government is spent on the military.

This military spending is inconsistent with the religious beliefs of hundreds and thousands of Americans. Because of their strong beliefs, these people would rather disobey their government than disobey their God or their beliefs. As a disciple of Ghandi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s, preachings on non-violence, I understand the difficult choice these Americans face.

That is why I am introducing this legislation. The Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund would allow religious and conscientious objectors to pay their taxes without violating their religious beliefs. These taxpayers would have their tax payments placed in the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund. Money from this fund could not be spent for military purposes. Religious objectors would be assured that their tax payment would not increase military spending—that paying taxes would not violate their religious beliefs.

The Joint Committee on Taxation has determined that the Religious Freedom and Peace Tax Fund legislation is a slight revenue raiser. The bill will not reduce military spending. It simply will allow thousands more Americans to pay their taxes in good conscience.

VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY  
WINNING ESSAY FROM HAWAII

**HON. PATSY T. MINK**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I have the great honor to request permission to insert in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the text of the winning essay from Hawaii entitled "My Service to America," by Carmen M. Herlihy, in the 1998-99 VFW Voice of Democracy Scholarship Competition.

MY SERVICE TO AMERICA

(By Carmen Herlihy)

It was a little over two hundred years ago that a tremendous thing happened. Freedom was born. The birth of the United States Constitution was perhaps one of the most important occurrences in our country's history. In that mother of freedom there sprung a child of the future, the Bill of Rights. These 10 amendments have been the backbone of the growth of modern society. People have lived in the comfort of knowing that they will always be there, for they have always been there. But as the population continues to grow, and differences in culture have sprung up, perhaps the existence of the freedom that we as citizens have taken for granted will slowly be taken right out of our patriotic hand.

It would be a lie to say that we live in a country that grants us complete freedom. After all, complete freedom would lead to chaos. Therefore laws were created to protect the well-being of all citizens. But we are privileged enough to live in a country that allows us to voice our opinions freely, worship in what we choose, and defend ourselves when necessary.

As I watch television broadcast of the unfortunate occurrences in places such as Kosovo, where people as young as children are being killed; Northern Ireland, where a 300 year old conflict has yet to be solved and China where oppression is not openly accepted, but expected by all, I thank the spirits of our founding fathers for their bravery and loyalty in the belief that a country that enables its citizens to grow, is a country that must be formed.

We as citizens of this great land have an obligation to fulfill; that obligation is to live out our reputation as being the land of opportunity and freedom, equality for all. It is a journey we must make in order to continue the tradition of freedom and basic human rights. The first of many battles is at hand.

On November third 19 hundred and ninety eight, a choice will have to be made by the citizens of a small state floating in the middle of the pacific ocean. Many people will vote on that issue without fully understanding the concept it carries out. To some it means saving the idea of traditional marriage, to other it means saving the constitution of the United States. Whatever the truth may be, another issue lies beneath the surface, one that many people would rather overlook. It is question of freedom.

Homosexuality. A word often said beneath ones breath. The thing about the word homosexuality that always amused me was the

fact that people were afraid to say the word, fearing almost that was a contagious condition. It's safe to assume that a majority of the United States population disagrees with "Alternative" lifestyles. But does that mean that it acceptable to deny a group of people the basic human rights they are entitled to?

Have we learned nothing from the people of segregation that our country had endured not so long ago? There were people, such as Martin Luther King Jr., who were brave enough to stand up and demand the freedom that African-Americans were entitled to. There were the struggles women had endured in order to gain their right to an abortion. We live in a country that grants its citizens basic human rights that are necessary in order to live, freedom to be ones own person. Should we deny those freedoms to people who are different from ourselves? We have no right to impose our beliefs onto other people, nor does anyone have the right to deny the beliefs of another. If we do so, we will only be stepping back into our journey toward the United States our founding fathers had envisioned.

As citizens of this great country, we all have our service to America. But the freedom instilled in the United States grants us the right to chose what that is. My service to America is to uphold the belief that all men are created equal. My service to America is to ensure that I will never be in the position of oppressing another group of people. My service to America is to inform the generation to follow of the importance of freedom. My service to America is to never forget historical struggles. My service to America is to never forget that I live in America, the land of the free.

Carmen M. Herlihy is a senior attending Baldwin High School on the island of Maui. She hopes to enter New York University this fall to pursue a career in the theater or writing.

#### SALUTE TO OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY MONTH

#### HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, in today's business world, maintaining a productive workforce is a vital function. Workplace injuries seriously hamper the efficiency of both the employer and the employee. Workers hurt on the job need assistance in returning to their positions and aid in preventing future injuries. Occupational therapists have long been in the forefront of providing these vital services to companies and their workers.

April 1 marked the beginning of Occupational Therapy Month. I would like to take this opportunity to hail the men and women who serve as occupational therapists, including, I am proud to note, my own daughter.

Occupational therapists are skilled in task analysis and ergonomics. They advise businesses on cost-effective ways to reduce the likelihood of worker disability. Occupational therapists work to prevent injury by modifying work areas, teaching techniques to alleviate physical discomfort, and developing equipment to simplify work. As the computer becomes more integrated in the daily lives of Americans, the occupational therapist can advise on how to set up a computer workstation that allows healthy computing. Using the right equipment and posture can prevent neck and shoul-

der pain, as well as damaging hand and arm conditions that can result from computer overuse. Occupational therapists improve the effectiveness and health of businesses and their employees.

In recognition of the critical role these individuals play in supporting the American workforce, I salute the 60,000 members of the American Occupational Therapy Association during their special month of April.

#### IN HONOR OF RENAMING THE WADE PARK VA MEDICAL CENTER FOR LOUIS STOKES

#### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the renaming of the Cleveland VA Medical Center to the Louis Stokes Cleveland Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center and the dedication of the new parking garage.

Louis Stokes is not only a military veteran of World War II, but he is also a veteran of nearly two decades of public service to the people of Cleveland in the House of Representatives, and a maker of history. During his time in Congress, he was considered the dean of the Ohio Congressional Delegation.

Louis Stokes was the first African-American from Ohio to win a seat in Congress on November 6, 1968. He has impressed all who have known and worked with him with his commitment, erudition and patience. He has been a political mentor to me, and I have known and appreciated his abiding loyalty, good advice and friendship for many years.

Louis Stokes is also widely respected for his broad knowledge of veterans affairs and health issues. It is very fitting, therefore, that the Cleveland VA Medical Center be renamed the Louis Stokes Cleveland Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in congratulating our former colleague, Louis Stokes, as he accepts this great honor.

#### ROCKAWAY CHAMBER OF COM- MERCE HOSTS BRAVEST AND FINEST LUNCHEON

#### HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to pay tribute to the Rockaway Chamber of Commerce on the occasion of it's Bravest & Finest Luncheon.

The members of the Rockaway Chamber of Commerce have long been known for their commitment to community service and to enhancing the quality of life for all New York City residents.

This luncheon is not only a festive happening, it is a chance for all of us to celebrate and pay tribute to a group of individuals who have dedicated their lives to protecting their friends and neighbors. This year's honorees truly represent the best of what our community has to offer.

Lieutenant Carl Trincone was appointed to the New York City Fire Department in Sep-

tember 1982. After being promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in 1991, he was assigned to Engine 264 where he continues to protect the people of the Rockaways from harm's way.

Firefighters 1st Grade Gregory Ruggiero, Steven Incarnato, Brian Gallagher, and Eugene Gentile are well known for their heroism and dedication to the people of the Rockaways. These brave men routinely place their own lives at risk in order to protect their friends and neighbors.

Police Officers George Von Bartheld, Jason Gaertner, Cory Fink, Scott Rodriguez, and Lucion Herriot have each made an exceptional contribution towards the reduction of crime in the Rockaways and have enhanced community safety. In addition, the members of the Transit Borough Queens Detective Squad, lead by Sgt. Scott Guginsky, have helped make our subways a safer place to travel. Each of these officers have proved themselves to be valuable assets to both the Police Department and the people of the Rockaways.

All of today's honorees have long been known as innovators and beacons of good will to all those with whom they come into contact. Through their dedicated efforts, they have each helped to improve my constituents' quality of life. In recognition of their many accomplishments on behalf of my constituents, I offer my congratulations on their being honored by the Rockaway Chamber of Commerce.

#### INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO EXTEND AND IMPROVE THE NATIONAL WRITING PROJECT

#### HON. GEORGE G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to join my colleague Congressman WICKER in introducing legislation to extend and improve the National Writing Project.

The knowledge and skill of a child's teacher is the single most important factor in the quality of his or her education. The National Writing Project is a nationwide program that works to improve student writing abilities by improving the teaching of writing in the nation's schools.

The National Writing Project serves a remarkable number of teachers and students on an exceptionally small budget.

In academic year 1997-98, the National Writing Project trained 181,402 teachers and administrators nationwide through 157 writing project sites in 46 states, Washington, DC, and Puerto Rico. It has served two million teachers and administrators over the last 25 years.

For every federal dollar received, the National Writing Project raises \$6.93 in matching grants. This makes the National Writing Project one of the most cost-effective educational programs in the country.

Furthermore, a national staff of only two people administers the National Writing Project. The use of limited federal funds to leverage large private investments is the most efficient way to use the budgeted funds available for the greatest possible return.

The National Writing Project works. For example, in Chicago, students of National Writing Project teachers have shown significantly

higher gains on the Illinois Goals Assessment Program writing tests when compared to student performance citywide. In an urban Sacramento, California high school, student performance on local writing assessments rose from lowest to highest in the district after an influx of National Writing Project teachers to the school, and college enrollment among this school's senior class rose 400%.

The National Writing Project has received similarly impressive results all across this country. In fact, the National Writing Project has received glowing reviews from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the National Council of Teacher Education, the Council for Basic Education, and independent evaluators.

The national Writing Project is efficient, cost-effective and successful. I look forward to working with my colleagues in enacting this important legislation.

IN HONOR OF DR. RUSSELL L. TRAVIS

**HON. ERNIE FLETCHER**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call to the attention of my colleagues in the House of Representatives the distinguished career of Russell L. Travis, MD, a neurological surgeon from Lexington, Kentucky, and a good friend. After a lifetime commitment of service to his patients, his profession, his community, and to the people of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, it is fitting that Dr. Travis be recognized by this body as he completes his term as president of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons.

Born in Jenkins, Kentucky, a small Appalachian community, Dr. Travis attended Centre College in Danville, and received his medical degree from the University of Louisville. Following his residency at the Medical College Hospital of South Carolina, Dr. Travis returned to Lexington to begin his practice as a neurological surgeon.

One of Dr. Travis' most outstanding contributions has been his commitment to ensuring that all Kentucky citizens have access to affordable, quality health care. As both an advocate for change at a legislative level and as a volunteer in the field, his efforts are widely known and appreciated. Almost every week for the past 25 years, Dr. Travis has traveled hundreds of miles to see patients in places where you wouldn't normally find a neurosurgeon—towns like Whitesburg or Hazard, Kentucky, where adequate medical attention is in short supply. What's more, he enlisted others in service to his vision, playing a key role in the formation of Kentucky Physicians Care, a group of physicians who volunteer their services to provide free medical care to the less fortunate in their communities. This national recognized program was the first all-volunteer, nongovernment-sponsored statewide program of its kind in the country. To ensure its success, Dr. Travis traveled to every part of the State at his own expense, encouraging his colleagues to participate. And what a success it has been—since 1985 more than 300,000 Kentucky citizens have received needed medical attention from Dr. Travis' physician volunteers.

Dr. Travis' insight, experience, and hard work while serving on Kentucky's Task Force on Health Care Access and Affordability proved invaluable in achieving our goals of reforming health care in Kentucky, attempting to undo the damage well-intentioned but ill-considered government intervention had done. The Commonwealth owes much to Dr. Travis for his efforts on this task force.

Dr. Travis has given much back to his profession as well. His tireless involvement in State and national professional societies has improved the standards of medical care. Dr. Travis' colleagues have recognized these contributions with numerous awards, including the Congress of Neurological Surgeons' Distinguished Service Award, the Kentucky Medical Association's Service to Mankind Award, the Fayette County Medical Society's Jack Trevey Award for his leadership role in the Kentucky Physician Care Program, and the Physician's Recognition Award.

On behalf of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives, I congratulate and commend Dr. Russell Travis on his exemplary service for not only the people of Kentucky, but for his contributions to the field of neurological surgery, from which the entire Nation benefits.

GAO FINDS 43% OF ELIGIBLE  
MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES NOT  
RECEIVING LOW-INCOME PRO-  
TECTION

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, complicated administrative procedures, difficult and lengthy application forms and even the reluctance to visit a welfare office are keeping millions of low-income seniors from receiving Medicare benefits designed just for people like them, according to a new report from the General Accounting Office.

The GAP report I requested with Representative PETE STARK found that 43 percent of the elderly poor are not enrolled in Medicare's programs to assist them with their health-care costs. The federal agency said of the 5.1 million elderly who qualify for the assistance, about 2.2 million were not enrolled.

My view is that GAO's findings that the high percentage of Medicare beneficiaries who are eligible, but not actually enrolled in the programs is alarming, and warrants Congressional action.

These are people in our society who need help the most. Often they are women, single, living alone, and over 80 years old. We need to adequately take care of our mothers, grandmothers and aunts, rather than force them to endure a gauntlet of administrative forms and long lines at the welfare agency.

The GAO report cited a lack of outreach to get people into the program, complex administrative rules, and the reluctance of some seniors to visit a welfare office as part of the reason for lack of enrollment.

To correct these problems, Representatives STARK and BERRY and I today introduced legislation to automatically enroll eligible beneficiaries into the programs.

It's clear that Congress has failed to ensure that we reach out to Medicare beneficiaries el-

igible for these programs. Section 154 of the Social Security Amendments of 1994 (P.L. 103-432) directed the Secretary of HHS to obtain all information necessary from newly-eligible Medicare beneficiaries to determine their eligibility for these programs and to transmit this information to individual states.

Medicare provides health insurance coverage to nearly 39 million Americans. Costs are shared by the government and the individuals. Medicare Part A—hospitalization—is paid through the federal payroll tax. But premiums for Medicare Part B—for doctor's bills—are paid by beneficiaries through a deduction from their Social Security payments. Many seniors also buy so-called Medigap policies to take care of costs not paid by Medicare.

The cost of Medicare Part B premiums, which are \$45.50 per month this year, can be a burden for low-income elderly.

The poorest of the elderly can get help paying their premiums through Medicaid. But many seniors who are not quite at the poverty level still have trouble paying this cost. So Congress established two programs, the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary program, or QMB, and the Specified Low Income Medicare Beneficiary program, (SLMB).

QMB began in 1986 and is aimed at Medicare beneficiaries below the federal poverty level. It pays Medicare premiums, deductibles and coinsurance.

SLMB, started in 1993, requires state Medicaid programs to pay Part B premiums, but not deductibles or coinsurance. It is aimed at those with incomes below 120 percent of the federal poverty level.

We introduced our bill to ensure that qualified and needy seniors can take advantage of these programs. Essentially, what their bill would do is automatically enroll qualifying seniors in the programs.

The GAO report also stated that many potential recipients don't even know the programs exist.

The report noted, "The persistence of relatively low enrollment in the QMB and SLMB programs suggests that enhanced outreach or simplified enrollment processes would be helpful in reaching a larger share of eligible low-income Medicare beneficiaries."

Our legislation would go a step further and ensure that Medicare beneficiaries actually receive the benefits to which they are entitled.

IT IS TIME TO SERVE OUR  
VETERANS

**HON. JERRY MORAN**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I am glad to rise in support of legislation I introduced on March 25, 1999, that will give more veterans the freedom to choose where they receive medical care. Under current law, the VA does not generally treat a non-service connected Medicare-eligible veteran because they have no way to recover the full cost of doing so. With this legislation, a Medicare-enrolled veteran could go to their VA for care and Medicare would reimburse the VA at a fixed rate. This Medicare subvention legislation allows the Department of Veterans Affairs to establish a three year demonstration project at



up to 10 sites around the country to test Medicare reimbursements to the VA. While a pilot project for Department of Defense Medicare Subvention was enacted into law in 1997, the VA's Pilot Project was not.

This legislation is budget neutral. It caps Medicare payments to the VA at \$50 million annually. HHS and VA will monitor this project from beginning to end in order to study its effectiveness in giving more veterans access to VA health care. Last month, this legislation passed in the Senate. Now is the time for the House to act on this issue.

The second part of this bill would take steps to ensure that the Department of Defense health care coverage, Tricare, is accessible and patient-friendly through improved business practices and by meeting industry standards. In 1993, the Department of Defense restructured its health care program in order to maintain beneficiary access to high quality care while containing cost. Implementation of this program has been difficult as force reduction and base closures have resulted in fewer military treatment facilities and medical personnel. There is still much to be done to ensure access to Tricare's 8 million beneficiaries made up of active service members, their families, and retirees.

This legislation directs the Department of Defense to take several steps to ensure that Tricare is similar to the health care coverage available to all other federal employees; that it ensure portability of benefits from region to region; and that it improve patient management. Changes in this bill will improve Tricare for beneficiaries, providers, and contractors. Identical legislation was passed last month in the Senate and it is time the House did the same. Those who have served in our military deserve accessible health care without the red tape.

This bill also encourages the Veterans Benefits Administration to review its policies and procedures in reviewing claims; initiate necessary actions to process claims in a consistent and timely manner; and report to the Congress on measures taken to improve processing time. Processing claims through the VBA, including veterans disability ratings, has grown increasingly slower over the last few years. A veteran's access to VA health care often depends on these decisions. We should not put a veteran's health care needs on hold because of paperwork delays.

I commend our veterans for their courage in defending our nation's values and freedoms. They have served their country to the fullest extent, and it is time to serve our veterans.

#### INTRODUCTION OF CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 1999

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the Corporate Responsibility Act of 1999 which will save an estimated \$33 billion in corporate welfare over the next five years. This bill eliminates or reforms twelve federal programs that currently use billions of taxpayer dollars to subsidize corporate America. Three years ago, Congress reduced welfare for individuals and families. Now it is time to do the same for corporations.

This legislation is necessary to eliminate the system of tax breaks, subsidies and other policies given to wealthy special interests by the federal government. Time magazine estimates that corporate welfare costs American taxpayer \$625 billion every five years. Foreign Sales Corporations (FSCs), which give tax breaks to corporations who transport American jobs overseas, alone account for \$1.7 billion each year.

My bill, similar to one introduced in the 105th Congress, takes aim at the worst examples of corporate welfare in the federal budget, including FSCs, special tax treatment of alcohol fuels, the Market Access Program, the Export Enhancement Program, and federal funding of forest roads for logging. The bill also includes a lock-box mechanism to ensure that all savings and revenue go directly toward reducing the public debt.

This bill would save more than \$33 billion over five years by ending corporate welfare programs and reforming others. Because this legislation is limited to the most egregious examples, my bill is a litmus test for anyone who is serious about ending corporate welfare. In short, this bill puts the best interest of our citizens—a balanced budget, jobs, education, and a clean environment—ahead of handouts to huge corporations and wealthy special interests.

Consequently, I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor and support the Corporate Responsibility Act of 1999.

#### HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION AND KOSOVO

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, my remarks today come at a time of great significance to the Jewish community and the international community. This week we observed the days of remembrance, a commemoration of the Holocaust and a tribute to those who lost their lives.

The Holocaust was a time of such incredible horror that it is often not taught to the young and some, because of how disturbing it can be, choose not to speak of it. I accept it as my duty to educate others about the atrocities of the past so that they may never again occur. The Holocaust was a disgraceful chapter in the history of humankind. The fact that the world stood by and watched, is something that I will never understand. What I will do, what the world must do, is to promise that these crimes against humanity will never again be tolerated.

Today, our responsibility is again subject to a test. With the crisis in Kosovo, and the all too familiar images of families being packed into boxcars, bodies being discovered, and orphaned children crying, the Jewish community is painfully reminded of the suffering we have sworn to prevent.

I would also like to take this opportunity to commend the people of Israel for realizing the relationship between the suffering in Kosovo and the suffering in the history of the Jews. In the first ten days of Operation Allied Forces, Israeli citizens donated over one million dollars toward refugee relief efforts in the Balkans.

Field hospitals set up by Israel have already helped to successfully deliver 7 babies born to Kosovar refugees. In Israel on Monday, 17 families of Kosovar refugees—the first of hundreds yet to come—arrived to a warm welcome led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his wife Sara.

Among those that arrived on Monday were Lamia Jaka, the daughter of righteous gentiles Dervish and Servet Kurkut of Kosovo, and her husband Vlaznim. Lamia's parents saved both Jews and religious texts during the Holocaust. David Berkowitz of Neveh Ilan, whose mother was saved by Lamia's parents who hid her at their home, was on hand for a tearful reunion.

These acts are very important to me. They say that the lessons of the Holocaust need to be taught forever. I am thankful for the opportunity I have to commemorate the lives lost in the Holocaust and for the opportunity I have in facing the crisis in Kosovo to honor human life by acting to preserve it.

I was touched by the remarks Eli Wiesel delivered this week at the White House which are included below. I would urge my colleagues to take the time to read them because they serve as testimony to our necessary involvement in the NATO operation taking place in Kosovo.

Mr. WIESEL. Mr. President, Mrs. Clinton, members of Congress, Ambassador Holbrooke, Excellencies, friends: Fifty-four years ago to the day, a young Jewish boy from a small town in the Carpathian Mountains woke up, not far from Goethe's beloved Weimar, in a place of eternal infamy called Buchenwald. He was finally free, but there was no joy in his heart. He thought there never would be again.

Liberated a day earlier by American soldiers, he remembers their rage at what they saw. And even if he lives to be a very old man, he will always be grateful to them for that rage, and also for their compassion. Though he did not understand their language, their eyes told him what he needed to know—that they, too, would remember, and bear witness.

And now, I stand before you, Mr. President—Commander-in-Chief of the army that freed me, and tens of thousands of others—and I am filled with a profound and abiding gratitude to the American people.

Gratitude is a word that I cherish. Gratitude is what defines the humanity of the human being. And I am grateful to you, Hillary—or Mrs. Clinton—for what you said, and for what you are doing for children in the world, for the homeless, for the victims of injustice, the victims of destiny and society. And I thank all of you for being here.

We are on the threshold of a new century, a new millennium. What will the legacy of this vanishing century be? How will it be remembered in the new millennium? Surely it will be judged, and judged severely, in both moral and metaphysical terms. These failures have cast a dark shadow over humanity: two World Wars, countless civil wars, the senseless chain of assassinations—Gandhi, the Kennedys, Martin Luther King, Sadat, Rabin—bloodbaths in Cambodia and Nigeria, India and Pakistan, Ireland and Rwanda, Eritrea and Ethiopia, Sarajevo and Kosovo; the inhumanity in the gulag and the tragedy of Hiroshima. And, on a different level, of course, Auschwitz and Treblinka. So much violence, so much indifference.

What is indifference? Etymologically, the word means "no difference." A strange and unnatural state in which the lines blur between light and darkness, dusk and dawn, crime and punishment, cruelty and compassion, good and evil.



What are its courses and inescapable consequences? Is it a philosophy? Is there a philosophy of indifference conceivable? Can one possibly view indifference as a virtue? Is it necessary at times to practice it simply to keep one's sanity, live normally, enjoy a fine meal and a glass of wine, as the world around us experiences harrowing upheavals?

Of course, indifference can be tempting—more than that, seductive. It is so much easier to look away from victims. It is so much easier to avoid such rude interruptions to our work, our dreams, our hopes. It is, after all, awkward, troublesome, to be involved in another person's pain and despair. Yet, for the person who is indifferent, his or her neighbors are of no consequence. And, therefore, their lives are meaningless. Their hidden or even visible anguish is of no interest. Indifference reduces the other to an abstraction.

Over there, behind the black gates of Auschwitz, the most tragic of all prisoners were the "Muselmänner," as they were called. Wrapped in their torn blankets, they would sit or lie on the ground, staring vacantly into space, unaware of who or where they were, strangers to their surroundings. They no longer felt pain, hunger, thirst. They feared nothing. They felt nothing. They were dead and did not know it.

Rooted in our tradition, some of us felt that to be abandoned by humanity then was not the ultimate. We felt that to be abandoned by God was worse than to be punished by Him. Better an unjust God than an indifferent one. For us to be ignored by God was harsher punishment than to be a victim of His anger. Man can live far from God—not outside God. God is wherever we are. Even in suffering? Even in suffering.

In a way, to be indifferent to that suffering is what makes the human being inhuman. Indifference, after all, is more dangerous than anger and hatred. Anger can at times be creative. One writes a great poem, a great symphony, have done something special for the sake of humanity because one is angry at the injustice that one witnesses. But indifference is never creative. Even hatred at times may elicit a response. You fight it. You denounce it. You disarm it. Indifference elicits no response. Indifference is not a response.

Indifference is not a beginning, it is an end. And, therefore, indifference is always the friend of the enemy, for its benefits the aggressor—never his victim, whose pain is magnified when he or she feels forgotten. The political prisoner in his cell, the hungry children, the homeless refugees—not to respond to their plight, not to relieve their solitude by offering them a spark of hope is to exile them from human memory. And in denying their humanity we betray our own.

Indifference, then, is not only a sin, it is a punishment. And this is one of the most important lessons of this outgoing century's wide-ranging experiments in good and evil.

In the place that I come from society was composed of three simple categories: the killers, the victims, and the bystanders. During the darkest of times, inside the ghettos and death camps—and I'm glad that Mrs. Clinton mentioned that we are now commemorating that event, that period, that we are now in the Days of Remembrance—but then, we felt abandoned, forgotten. All of us did.

And our only miserable consolation was that we believed that Auschwitz and Treblinka were closely guarded secrets; that the leaders of the free world did not know what was going on behind those black gates and barbed wire; that they had no knowledge of the war against the Jews that Hitler's armies and their accomplices waged as part of the war against the Allies.

If they knew, we thought, surely those leaders would have moved heaven and earth

to intervene. They would have spoken out with great outrage and conviction. They would have bombed the railways leading to Birkenau, just the railways, just once.

And now we knew, we learned, we discovered that the Pentagon knew, the State Department knew. And the illustrious occupant of the White House then, who was a great leader—and I say it with some anguish and pain, because, today is exactly 54 years marking his death—Franklin Delano Roosevelt denied on April the 12th, 1945, so he is very much present to me and to us.

No doubt, he was a great leader. He mobilized the American people and the world, going into battle, brining hundreds and thousands of valiant and brave soldiers in America to fight fascism, to fight dictatorship, to fight Hitler. And so many of the young people fell in battle. And, nevertheless, his image in Jewish history—I must say it—his image in Jewish history is flawed.

The depressing tale of the St. Louis is a case in point. Sixty years ago, its human cargo—maybe 1,000 Jews—was turned back to Nazi Germany. And that happened after the Kristallnacht, after the first state sponsored pogrom, with hundreds of Jewish shops destroyed, synagogues burned, thousands of people put in concentration camps. And that ship, which was already on the shores of the United States, was sent back.

I don't understand. Roosevelt was a good man, with a heart. He understood those who needed help. Why didn't he allow these refugees to disembark? A thousand people—in America, a great country, the greatest democracy, the most generous of all new nations in modern history. What happened? I don't understand. Why the indifference, on the highest level, to the suffering of the victims?

But then, there were human beings who were sensitive to our tragedy. Those non-Jews, those Christians, that we called the "Righteous Gentiles," whose selfless acts of heroism saved the honor of their faith. Why were they so few? Why was there a greater effort to save SS murderers after the war than to save their victims during the war?

Why did some of America's largest corporations continue to do business with Hitler's Germany until 1942? It has been suggested, and it was documented, that the Wehrmacht could not have conducted its invasion of France without oil obtained from American sources. How is one to explain their indifference?

And yet, my friends, good things have also happened on this traumatic century: the defeat of Nazism, the collapse of communism, the rebirth of Israel on its ancestral soil, the demise of apartheid, Israel's peace treaty with Egypt, the peace accord in Ireland. And let us remember the meeting, filled with drama and emotion, between Rabin and Arafat that you, Mr. President, convened in this very place. I was here and I will never forget it.

And then, of course, the joint decision of the United States and NATO to intervene in Kosovo and save those victims, those refugees, those who were uprooted by a man whom I believe that because of his crimes, should be charged with crimes against humanity. But this time, the world was not silent. This time, we do respond. This time, we intervene.

Does it mean that we have learned from the past? Does it mean that society has changed? Has the human being become less indifferent and more human? Have we really learned from our experiences? Are we less insensitive to the plight of victims of ethnic cleansing and other forms of injustices in places near and far? Is today's justified intervention in Kosovo, led by you, Mr. President, a lasting warning that never

again will the deportation, the terrorization of children and their parents be allowed anywhere in the world? Will it discourage other dictators in other lands to do the same?

What about the children? Oh, we see them on television, we read about them in the papers, and we do so with a broken heart. Their fate is always the most tragic, inevitably. When adults wage war, children perish. We see their faces, their eyes. Do we hear their pleas? Do we feel their pain, their agony? Every minute one of them dies of disease, violence, famine. Some of them—so many of them—could be saved.

And so, once again, I think of the young Jewish boy from the Carpathian Mountains. He has accompanied the old man I have become throughout these years of quest and struggle. And together we walk towards the new millennium, carried by profound fear and extraordinary hope. (Applause.)

I conclude on that.

IF IT AIN'T BROKE, DON'T FIX IT

**HON. BOB SCHAFFER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, if it isn't broken, don't fix it. If it works, don't break it.

I'm referring to the Social Security debate. Currently, some in Congress are looking at proposals to prevent the program's anticipated bankruptcy 32 years from now. In order to buy the system a couple more years of financial solvency, some of our colleagues are considering levying a new tax on state and local government employees who are currently covered by their own pension plans. They want to force newly-hired state and local government employees who would otherwise enjoy independent pension and disability programs with good returns to participate in Social Security which offers neither security nor a good investment opportunity.

If that isn't bad enough, by mandating new state and local employees into Social Security, they will short-circuit state and local programs by shutting down the capital stream necessary to maintain current benefit levels. Mandating Social Security will, in essence, break what isn't broken while failing to fix what is.

Mr. Speaker, 5 million state and local employees and 2 million retirees are covered by alternative plans. In Ohio, Colorado, California, Massachusetts, Nevada, Maine, Alaska, and Louisiana, over half of all state employees are covered by their own plans. In Texas and Illinois over 1 million employees are covered under state and local plans. Every state is impacted because about 75 percent of all public safety employees are not covered under Social Security. In Colorado there are more than 200,000 state, education, and local government employees who are outside of the federal retirement system.

These state and local disability and pension systems were developed because the original Social Security Act of 1937 excluded state and local governments from Social Security coverage. This was to avoid raising a possible Constitutional question of whether the federal government could tax state and local governments. Congress later amended the law to make state and local government employee participation in Social Security voluntary in 1950. In 1983, those already participating in

Social Security were required to remain in the federal systems.

In the absence of Social Security, Colorado state and local employees developed public retirement plans which have been able to provide solid, secure benefits at a reasonable cost. The plans earn better investment returns, through private sector investments, than are available through the current pay-as-you-go Social Security system. With a diversified investment fund, the state's largest plan has earned an average annual investment return of over 11 percent during the last 25 years.

Furthermore, the plans are designed to meet the specific needs of public employees. Fire fighter pension plans, for example, are designed to take into account early retirement ages, high rates of disability and the need for extensive health care characteristic of this profession.

The one-size-fits-all approach of universal Social Security coverage would provide inadequate flexibility for safety workers' needs. Mandatory coverage will have additional consequences. Even on a new-hire basis, mandatory coverage will reduce the capital stream necessary for investment. In many plans around the country this will cause benefit cut-backs including reduced credit for future service, cuts in retiree health care coverage and cost of living adjustments.

Further, mandatory coverage represents a new tax and an unfunded federal mandate on states which would require state and local tax increases or a reduction in services for taxpayers. Health benefits for retirees would also be affected in many states.

Mr. Speaker, private sector workers would also be affected. Most states do not receive any income tax revenue from Social Security payments and the lost state revenue resulting from mandatory coverage would likely be made up from increased state taxes or budget cuts.

In Colorado, the public pension systems will be seriously compromised because most of the funding of benefit comes from investment income which would be severely cut by the transfer of significant contributions to Social Security. State retirement funds support Colorado's economy and the nation unlike Social Security funds which simply support other government programs. Reduced state pension investment means reduced Colorado capital investment. A decline in contributions translates into less investment in Colorado-based companies and real estate. Furthermore, when Colorado retirees receive fewer benefits they will pay fewer state income taxes.

The potential loss of revenue to the state is significant, but the loss of retirement contributions and security for Colorado state and local workers is even more troubling. Our state's Public Employees' Retirement Association (PERA) anticipates an end to plan improvements for current participants and retirees. New hires would receive a combined Social Security and PERA benefit that would be slightly less than three-fourths of the current PERA benefit.

To put it plainly, under mandatory Social Security state and local workers will lose out. New hires will lose the opportunity to participate in financially strong, high-earning retirement plans and they will be forced to partake in an inefficient system and receive far less or possibly nothing at all. Those already participating in state and local government retire-

ment plans will experience a reduction in benefits when new hire funds are redirected to Social Security. In order to make contributions to both pension and Social Security plans, state and local governments will have to raise taxes or reduce services, in which case, everyone loses.

Mr. Speaker, the only advantage Congress would realize in this scheme would be to buy two extra years for Social Security.

Over the past year, I led the Colorado delegation to protect state and local government pension and disability plans. Letters I wrote expressing our united opposition to mandatory Social Security have reached your desk. Do not disregard them or underestimate our resolve.

Congress must preserve the freedom of states, school districts, and local governments to maintain plans which best meet their needs, independent of Social Security. Social Security can and must be fixed without destroying plans upon which our constituents depend for their retirement.

Mr. Speaker, if it works, don't break it.

#### WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

SPEECH OF

**HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 1999*

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the numerous women of achievement in this country during Women's History Month. I believe true leadership has no gender, race, age or religion. It consists of dedication, perseverance, hard work, compassion, wisdom and a commanding vision for the future.

Tonight I would like to honor two women in particular who have mastered all of these traits despite being faced with seemingly insurmountable obstacles. As both the Vice Chair of the Women's Caucus and an active member of the Congressional Black Caucus, I have worked with my colleagues to present two awards to Helen Thomas and Dorothy Height during Women's History Month. Since it is important to document the remarkable work of women of such achievement Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with you their stories.

Helen Thomas has been the White House bureau chief of United Press International (UPI) since 1974. Over the past several decades, Helen has covered eight presidents. She is the first female UPI White House bureau chief. Prior to that, over the span of 50 years, she has been given what she called "the big plum" job of getting doughnuts for reporters in 1942. She went on to cover exclusively "female" subjects for UPI's radio wire, which was called United Press at the time. However, her big break came when she served as the only print journalist accompanying President Nixon when he made his historic trip to China in 1972. Thus was the rise of Helen Thomas.

Helen is considered tough and incisive with a keen ability to pierce through issues to find the meaning of events. She is also considered warm, open, passionate and opinionated. She has been a self-described women's libber since the day she was born and initiated the campaign to open the doors of the National

Press Club to women, which finally occurred when Nikita Krushchev spoke at the Club in 1959—although it took another 12 years before women were admitted. In the mid-seventies, she became the National Press Club's first female officer; the first female member of the 90-year old Grid Iron Club, Washington's most exclusive press organization, and in 1993 was elected its president; and the first female officer of the White House Correspondents Association. She has received numerous awards for her work in journalism and in 1992, UPI established an internship program in her honor to be awarded annually to a female journalism student.

At the proud age of 78, she continues to jump from behind bushes near the White House jogging track to fire questions at President Clinton during his morning run. And Helen is still known for jumping over banquet tables to get to a phone before her competitors. At White House press conferences, she is inevitably the first correspondent to be called on by the President and the last to close with her signature statement, "Thank you, Mr. President."

It is with great honor that the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues bestows the Women's Leadership Award to a woman of integrity, grit and boundless energy. She serves as a tremendous role model for millions of women in America.

An equally important role model for this country is Dorothy Height. Despite reaching the ripe age of 87 years old, Dr. Height is still considered one of the nation's most influential and effective women's leader. She has her master's degree in social work, and has been awarded 23 honorary degrees from various universities, including Harvard University. Some of her most impressive achievements include her leadership of the YWCA, National Council of Negro Women and the Center for Racial Justice.

During a tragic time of civil unrest, she was the first Black and first woman named to deal with the Harlem Riots of 1935 and sat at the table with President Johnson during the civil rights movement to develop meaningful civil rights legislation. Dr. Height served as a vocal and extremely effective leader in the civil rights movement to address lynching, desegregate the armed forces, reform the criminal justice system and free access to public accommodations. She also was the national president of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority from 1947 to 1956.

Today, Dr. Height is still viewed as a dynamic orator who contributes invaluable intellectual insight to national discussions on race relations, the role of women and a range of civil rights issues. She has traveled the world to study other cultures and developed a critical understanding of the role of women in Africa, Asia, India and Latin America. She has become a living legacy throughout this country and abroad.

I am so honored to join my colleague BARBARA LEE in bestowing an award on Dr. Height for her unyielding determination to never give up, her enthusiastic, can-do approach to solving some of the nation's most complex problems, and her astute understanding of the world that can be created through equality of opportunity for all of humanity.

LOCAL CENSUS QUALITY CHECK  
ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 14, 1999*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 472, the Local Census Quality Check Act of 1999. Although this bill purports to increase the involvement of local governments in the census, it really acts to slow down and delay an accurate count. Because the Census is a significant civil rights issue, the Census for 2000 must be accurate to ensure equal representation of all Americans.

The methodology of H.R. 472 repeats the process that was used in 1990—the same process that resulted in an undercount of the population. The 1990 Census missed 8.4 million people, 4.4 million people were counted twice and 13 million people were counted in the wrong place.

Although there were various reasons for the undercount in 1990, a disproportionate number of children, people of color and the rural and urban poor were most likely to have been missed. Thus, each of these groups was denied an equal voice in our government.

Census undercounts translate into communities losing out on federal and state funding for schools, crime prevention, health care and transportation. Because of the undercount in

1990, Texas lost almost \$1.87 billion in federal funds. A recent article in The Houston Chronicle estimated that Texas could lose \$2.8 billion if a similar undercount takes place.

In my district in Houston, close to 500,000 people were missed. It is estimated that 28,554 children in my district were missed. Almost five percent of all African-Americans and Hispanics were not counted in 1990, and these groups constitute almost half of the population of the city!

As Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, the undercount of children is particularly troubling to me. Over 50 percent of all American children were missed in the census count in 1990. This undercount affects all of the programs that benefit our children—education, health care, housing, childcare, nutrition and immunizations.

H.R. 472 in its present form will delay the census by an additional nine weeks. If we want to improve our methods, then we cannot micro-manage the count after the census is complete, nor should we further delay the results by waiting for 39,000 local governments to review the count.

The Census Bureau has already developed a plan that provides for review as the count occurs instead of after the fact. After the Census of 1990, the Bureau determined that the Post Census Local Review program was inefficient. Therefore, it has already designed a better series of programs and procedures that will promote local government participation in a timely and fair way.

In addition to the traditional headcount, the Bureau will conduct an in-depth survey of

300,000 households to measure how many people were missed. This survey, called the Accuracy and Coverage Evaluation or ACE, is more efficient and it is a better use of resources. It would cover about 85% of all housing units in the country, and twice as many local governments will be included than in 1990.

The Administration has expressed its negative views on H.R. 472. The Census Bureau has stated that this bill will compromise their efforts to conduct an accurate count. The Department of Commerce does not support this bill and recommended that the President veto it if it passes. The President has indicated that he will follow the advice of the Department of Commerce and veto this bill.

Instead of supporting H.R. 472, I ask that you support the Maloney amendment, offered by Representative CAROLYN MALONEY, which gives local governments the ability to remain within the plans developed by the Census Bureau. The Maloney amendment in the form of a substitute allows the Census Bureau to design programs to address local government concerns while not causing a delay in the count.

I urge my colleagues to vote against H.R. 472 and support the Maloney amendment. We owe it to the millions of people who were not counted. H.R. 472 will cause an unnecessary delay in the census. The Post Census Local Review method advocated in this bill did not prevent an undercount in 1990, and we must not make the same mistake for the year 2000.